MINUTES

OF THE

NATIONAL COUNCIL

OF THE

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES

OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

AT THE FIRST SESSION, HELD IN OBERLIN, OHIO,

NOVEMBER 15-21, 1871.

BOSTON:
CONGREGATIONAL PUBLISHING SOCIETY.
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COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED:

For the Secretary, — Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, New Bedford, Mass.

For the Registrar, — Rev. William H. Moore, Berlin, Conn.

For the Treasurer, — Charles G. Hammond, Chicago, Ill.

For the Chairman of the Provisional Committee, — Rev. Henry M. Storrs, d. d., Brooklyn, N. Y.

For the Chairmen of Special Committees, — as on page 68.

These Minutes are generously published, and a copy sent to each church, by the business department of the Congregational Publishing Society.

Alonzo H. Quint,
William H. Moore,
Samuel Holmes,
Publishing Committee of the Council.

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

The churches now known as The Congregational Churches of the United States have met in general Council four times before the meeting at Oberlin.

The first "Synod" convened at Newtown, now Cambridge, Mass., August 30, 1637, and dissolved September 22 following. It was called to consider certain opinions then strenuously urged, which were alleged to be erroneous, and which the Synod condemned. The Synod consisted of "all the teaching elders throughout the country," and of "messengers from the churches," — "about twenty-five godly ministers of Christ, besides many other graciously-eminent servants of his." Rev. Peter Bulkley, of Concord, and Rev. Thomas Hooker, of Hartford, were Moderators. The results are found in Weld's "Short Story," published in 1644. The number of churches then existing appears to have been nineteen.

The second "Synod" convened at Cambridge, September 1, 1646; "after about fourteen days" it adjourned to June 8, 1647; met on that day, but, on account of "an epidemical sickness," almost immediately adjourned; met again August 15, 1648, and "ended in less than fourteen days." Its main work was the "Cambridge Platform" of polity, and consent to the Westminster Confession of Faith, "for the substance thereof." The number of churches then existing appears to have been fifty-three.

No general Synod or Council was thereafter held until "A Convention of Ministers and Delegates of Congregational Churches in the United States" met at Albany, N. Y., October 5, 1852, which continued four days. The main subjects were (1) That of aiding feeble churches in building church edifices, and (2) That of the "Plan of Union" between Presbyterians and Congregationalists, agreed upon in 1801 by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church and the General Association of Connecticut, whose continuance it declared to be inexpedient. Of that convention, Rev. Wm. T. Dwight, D. D., of Maine, was President; Rev. Noah Porter, D. D., of Connecticut, and Rev. Asa Turner, of Iowa, Vice-Presidents; and Rev. Richard S. Storrs, D. D., of New York, Rev. John C. Holbrook, of Iowa, and Rev.

L. Smith Hobart, of Michigan, Secretaries. The number of churches existing in 1852 has not been accurately determined, because of the non-existence of statistical tables at that time. But judging from reports in 1847 and 1858, the number in 1852 was not far from one thousand nine hundred and fifty.

The fourth was the "National Council," which met at Boston, Mass., June 14, 1865, and dissolved June 24. Of this Council, Hon. Wm. A. Buckingham, of Connecticut, was Moderator; Rev. Joseph P. Thompson, of New York, and Hon. Charles G. Hammond, of Illinois, Assistant Moderators; and Rev. Henry M. Dexter, D. D., of Massachusetts, Rev. Philo R. Hurd, of Michigan, Rev. Martyn K. Whittlesey, of Illinois, Dea. Samuel Holmes, of New York, and Rev. Elihu P. Marvin, of Massachusetts, Scribes. The number of churches was then two thousand six hundred and fifty-eight.

The number of churches existing at the time of the meeting at Oberlin, was three thousand three hundred and two.

While there was no general Council between the years 1848 and 1852, several partial Synods, of great importance, were held between these two:

1. That of March 10, 1662, which, on the next day, adjourned to June 10, when it met and continued until July 4; re-assembled September 9, and "soon closed its sessions." This Synod, which was confined to Massachusetts, was distinguished by the "Half-way Covenant."

2. The Synod known as the "Reforming Synod," which was also confined to Massachusetts, met September 10, 1679, and adjourned on he 19th. It held a second session May 12, 1680, and soon dissolved. This Synod unanimously approved of the Platform of 1648, and adopted, with slight variations, the "Savoy Confession."

3. The Synod which met at Saybrook, Conn., September 9, 1768, was limited to Connecticut. The "Saybrook Platform" distinguishes this Synod.

Local organizations have long existed:

1. Of ministers. As early as 1633, the ministers of Boston and vicinity held regular meetings of the same character with those of the present ministerial Associations. They were subsequently suspended, but regularly organized Associations (generally by counties) were in existence prior to the year 1700. In Connecticut, the GENERAL ASSOCIATION, in which the local associations were represented, was formed

in 1709. Such General Associations, although only of ministers, served to promote work requiring union. That of Massachusetts, in 1810, appointed the first members of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. Local associations of ministers still continue, and some STATE ASSOCIATIONS.

2. Of churches. The consociations of churches in Connecticut date from 1708. In 1826, the GENERAL CONFERENCE of Maine was organized, uniting the county Conferences of churches. The Conference system spread, until now each State has its organization of that character, both local and general, although not always under that name. In 1871, there are twenty-one such State organizations, and seven others which occupy parts of States, or which group several States. None of them have any ecclesiastical authority. Between these State organizations, intercourse has been maintained by the annual appointment of delegates by each to all the others. The local and State Conference system, and the official recognition of unity by the regular interchange of delegates between the several State organizations, had become the practice of the Congregational churches.

On the approach of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims, the Church of the Pilgrimage, at Plymouth, Mass., invited the churches to meet by delegates at New York, to consider the appropriateness of particular action in celebrating this fifth jubilee. Such a meeting was held March 2, 1870; and it appointed a general committee for its purposes, consisting of Hon. Edward S. Tobey, Rev. William W. Patton, D. D., Rev. Henry M. Dexter, D. D., Samuel Holmes, A. S. Barnes, Rev. Ray Palmer, D. D., and Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, D. D.; of which, the first named was chairman, Rev. Dr. Dexter, secretary, and Mr. Holmes, treasurer.

Among the acts of this committee was the calling of a *Pilgrim Memorial Convention*, which met at Chicago, Ill., April 27, 1870, open to delegates from all the churches in the United States.

Of that convention, B. W. Tompkins, of Connecticut, was *Moderator;* Hon. E. D. Holton, of Wisconsin, Rev. Samuel Wolcott, D. D., of Ohio, and Rev. George F. Magoun, of Iowa, *Vice Moderators;* Rev. Henry C. Abernethy, of Illinois, Rev. Philo R. Hurd, D. D., of Michigan, and Rev. L. Smith Hobart, of New York, *Secretaries;* and Rev. William W. Patton, D. D., of Illinois, Dr. Samuel Holmes, of New York, Hon.

C. J. Walker, of Michigan, James L. Kearnie, of Missouri, and Rev. Rowland B. Howard, of Illinois, *Business Committee.*

Among the resolutions adopted at that large convention were the following: —

Resolved, That this Pilgrim Memorial Convention recommend to the Congregational State Conferences and Associations, and to other local bodies, to unite in measures for instituting on the principle of fellowship, excluding ecclesiastical authority, a permanent National Conference.

The General Conference of Ohio was the first to propose definite action. That Conference appointed a committee (Rev. A. Hastings Ross being made chairman) to correspond with the other State organizations and propose a convention to mature the plan. The several State organizations approved of the proposed National organization, and appointed committees. The General Association of New York proposed that a meeting of these committees be held in Boston, December 21, 1870, and its committee (Rev. L. Smith Hobart, chairman) issued circulars to that effect. The Committee of the General Association of Massachusetts adopted the proposal, and issued invitations accordingly. The official record of that convention, is herewith given.

CONVENTION OF COMMITTEES

UPON THE PROPOSAL TO FORM A

NATIONAL CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL.

In accordance with a call issued by a committee of the General Association of the Congregational Churches of Massachusetts, upon suggestion of the General Association of New York, Committees appointed by the several General Associations and Conferences in the United States, on the subject of a National Council, assembled in the Congregational Library Room, Boston, Mass., December 21, 1870, at 12 o'clock, noon.

Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, D. D., of Massachusetts, called the convention to order, and read the invitation under which the committees had convened.

Rev. L. Smith Hobart, of New York, Rev. Charles Seccombe, of Minnesota, and Rev. Joseph A. Leach, of New Hampshire, were appointed a committee to nominate officers. They reported the following nominees, who were unanimously elected: —

Rev. Edwin B. Webb, D. D., of Massachusetts, Moderator; Hon. Amos C. Barstow, of Rhode Island, Assistant Moderator; Rev. William E. Merriman, of Wisconsin, Scribe; and Hon. Henry S. McCall, of New York, Assistant Scribe.

Prayer was offered by the Moderator.

The roll of delegates was made out, and as completed in the further sessions of the convention, is as follows: —

Maine. — Rev. Benj. Tappan; Rev. Charles C. Parker, D. D.

New Hampshire. — Rev. Josiah G. Davis, D. D.; Rev. Franklin D. Ayer; Rev. Cyrus W. Wallace, D. D.; Rev. Joseph A. Leach; Rev. George M. Adams; Rev. Henry E. Parker.

Massachusetts. — Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, D. D.; Rev. Samuel T Seelye, D. D.; Rev. Edwin B. Webb, D. D.; Hon. Charles Stoddard; Hon. S. Angier Chace.

Rhode Island. — Rev. James G. Vose; Rev. James H. Lyon

Hon. F. W. Bicknell; Hon. Amos C. Barstow; Rev. Francis Horton.

Connecticut. — Rev. Davis S. Brainerd; Rev. Robert G. Vermilye, D. D.; Rev. Edward W. Gilman; Bro. Ralph D. Smith; Rev. Leonard Bacon, D. D.; Bro. Calvin Day.

New York. — Rev. L. Smith Hobart; Hon. Henry S. McCall; Rev. William I. Budington, D. D.

New Jersey. — Dea. Samuel Holmes.

Ohio. — Rev. George W. Phillips; Rev. Hiram Mead; Rev. Israel W. Andrews, D. D.

Michigan. — Rev. Jesse W. Hough.

Minnesota. — Rev. Charles Seccombe; Rev. Jas. W. Strong.

Wisconsin. — Rev. William E. Merriman.

Rev. Dr. Quint read the substance of the action taken by the several State Conferences on the subject of a National Council, and moved the following: —

Resolved, That it is expedient, and appears clearly to be the voice of the churches, that a National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States be organized.

After full discussion, in which delegates from all the States represented expressed their views, the resolution was unanimously adopted.

The convention took a recess of half an hour.

On re-assembling, it was unanimously

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed, to whom shall be referred all suggestions or papers, and who shall report in proper draft what is necessary to the organization of a National Council.

The following brethren were appointed the committee: —

Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, D. D., of Massachusetts; Rev. William E. Merriman, of Wisconsin; Dea. Samuel Holmes, of New Jersey; Rev. George W. Phillips, of Ohio; and Hon. F. W. Bicknell, of Rhode Island.

Informal discussion followed, on various points submitted to the committee; and the convention adjourned to meet to-morrow at 9½ o'clock, A. M.

Thursday, December 22, 1870.

The convention re-assembled at 9½ o'clock, A. M. Prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Seelye, of Massachusetts, and Rev. Mr. Hobart, of New York.

The committee appointed to prepare a draft of action necessary to the organization of National Council, reported. Their report was accepted, and considered article by article. After some amendment, it was unanimously adopted, as follows:

Resolved, 1. That it is expedient, and appears clearly to be the voice of the churches, that a NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES OF THE UNITED STATES be organized.

Resolved, 2. That the churches are hereby invited to meet in Council, by delegates, to form such an organization, and constitute its first session at a place and time to be settled by a committee hereafter to be appointed, who shall give public notice thereof; and that delegates be appointed in number and manner as follows: (1.) That the churches assembled in their local conferences, appoint one delegate for every ten churches in their respective organizations, and one for a fraction of ten greater than one-half; it being understood that wherever the churches of any State are directly united in a General Association or Conference, they may, at their option, appoint the delegates in the above ratio in General Conference, instead of in local Conferences. (2.) That in addition to the above, the churches united in any General Association or Conference, appoint by such Association, one delegate, and one for each ten thousand communicants in their fellowship, and one for a major fraction thereof. (3.) That the number of delegates be, in all cases, divided between ministers and laymen, as nearly equally as is possible.

Resolved, 3. That a committee, consisting of seven persons, be appointed to prepare the draft of a proposed Constitution for the National Council, to be submitted for consideration at the meeting now called, and to be previously published in season for consideration by the churches, and that that committee be governed by the following directions:

(1.) That the name be as above.

(2.) That reference be made to the Declaration of Faith set forth at Plymouth, in the year 1865, as the doctrinal basis.

(3.) That a declaration be made of the two cardinal principles of Congregationalism, viz.: the exclusive right and power of the individual churches to self-government; and the fellowship of the churches one with another, with the duties growing out of that fellowship, and especially the duty of general consultation in all matters of common concern to the whole body of churches.

(4.) That the churches withhold from the National Council all legislative or judicial power over churches or individuals, and all right to act as a Council of Reference.

(5.) That the objects of the organization be set forth substantially as follows: —

To express and foster the substantial unity of our churches in doctrine, polity, and work; and

To consult upon the common interests of all our churches, their duties in the work of evangelization, the united development of their resources, and their relations to all parts of the kingdom of Christ.

(6.) That the number and manner of electing delegates be as now adopted in calling the first meeting.

(7.) That the session be held once in —— years.

(8.) To provide as simple an organization, with as few officers, and with as limited duties as may be consistent with the efficiency of the Council in advancing the principles and securing the objects of the proposed organization.

Resolved, 4. That the churches throughout the country be notified of the action of this convention, and be requested to authorize their representatives in conferences to choose delegates as above.

Voted, That this committee be directed to determine the time and place of the first meeting of the Council, and issue the call.

Voted, That this committee be instructed to recommend a mode of providing for the expenses of delegates to the National Council.

Voted, That thanks be returned to the brethren in Boston, for their abundant hospitalities.

Voted, That the convention expresses to the directors of the American Congregational Association its sense of the value of the library rooms as a place of meeting.

Voted, That an official copy of these proceedings be published in religious periodicals.

The following persons were then chosen, by ballot, the committee to prepare the draft of proposed constitution, as ordered in the third resolve: —

Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, D. D., of New Bedford, Massachusetts, (Chairman.)

Rev. Pres. William E. Merriman, of Ripon, Wisconsin.

Rev. Prof. Samuel C. Bartlett, D. D., of Chicago, Illinois.

Dea. Samuel Holmes, of Montclair, New Jersey.

Major-General Oliver O. Howard, of Washington, District of Columbia.

Rev. William I. Budington, D. D., of Brooklyn, New York.

Hon. Amos C. Barstow, of Providence, Rhode Island.

After prayer, the convention adjourned *sine die*.

EDWIN B. WEBB, *Moderator.*

William E. Merriman, *Scribe.*

The Preliminary Committee decided to accept an invitation from the churches in Oberlin, Ohio, and issued the call of a National Council to meet there November 15, 1871.

MINUTES.

In response to a call issued by a Preliminary Committee appointed by a Convention of delegates, from the several State organizations of the Congregational churches of the United States, held in Boston, Mass., December 21, 1870, a Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States convened in the Second Church in Oberlin, Ohio, at half-past ten o'clock, A. M., Wednesday, November 15, 1871.

Temporary Organization.

The Chairman of the Preliminary Committee, Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, D. D., called the body to order, and read the letters calling the Council.

Hon. Erastus D. Holton, of Wisconsin, was chosen Moderator; Dea. Samuel Holmes, of New Jersey, Scribe; and Rev. William H. Moore, of Connecticut, and Rev. George S. F. Savage, D.D., of Illinois, Assistant Scribes.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Edwin B. Webb, D. D., of Massachusetts.

Address of Welcome.

Rev. James H. Fairchild, D. D., gave an address of welcome in behalf of the people of Oberlin, to which the Moderator replied.

Committee on Credentials.

Rev. Joshua W. Wellman, D. D., of Massachusetts, Rev. L. Smith Hobart, of New York, and Hon. Samuel D. Hastings, of Wisconsin, were appointed a committee on credentials, and their final report presented the following roll of members and their post-offices: —

MEMBERS.

Delegates from State and Local Bodies of Congregational Churches.

California.

General Association — Rev. Israel E. Dwinell, D. D., Sacramento; Rev. Thomas H. Rouse, San Mateo; Rev. John J. Powell, Rio Vista; Dea. R. E. Cole, D. D. S., Oakland; W. K. Rowell, Oakland.

Colorado.

Conference — Rev. Nathan Thompson, Boulder.

Connecticut.

General Conference — Rev. Leonard Bacon, D. D., LL.D., New Haven; Rev. William H. Moore, Berlin; Rev. Lavalette Perrin, D.D., North Stonington; Deacon Charles Benedict, Waterbury.

Fairfield East Consociation — Hon. David P. Nichols, Danbury.

Fairfield West Consociation — Rev. Richard B. Thurston, Stamford; Dea. Philander Button, Greenwich.

Farmington Valley Conference — Rev. James A. Smith, Unionville.

Hartford Conference — Rev. Aaron C. Adams, Wethersfield; Hon. Elisha Carpenter, Hartford.

Hartford South Conference — Rev. Elisha C. Jones, Southington; Hon. Benjamin Douglas, Middletown.

Litchfield North East Conference — Rev. Sanford S. Martyn, New Hartford.

Litchfield North West Conference — Rev. Jesse Brush, North Cornwall.

Litchfield South Consociation — Dea. George Langdon, Plymouth.

Middlesex Consociation — Rev. William Miller, Killingworth.

New Haven East Consociation — Rev. D. William Havens, East Haven; Whitney Elliott, North Haven.

New Haven West Conference — Rev. William L. Gaylord, Meriden; Rev. Orlando H. White, D. D., New Haven; Dea. Edwin A. Lum, Waterbury.

New London Conference — Hon. William A. Buckingham, LL. D., Norwich; Rev. Davis S. Brainerd, Lyme; Hon. Henry P. Haven, New London.

Tolland Conference — Rev. Asa S. Fiske, Rockville; Dea. John N. Stickney, Rockville.

Windham Conference — Rev. Jeremiah Taylor, D. D., West Killingly; Rev. Francis Williams, Chaplin.

Illinois.

General Association — Rev. Joseph E. Roy, D. D., Chicago.

Aurora Association — Rev. Isaac Clark, Aurora; Stephen B. Stinson, Sandwich.

Bureau Association — Rev. Joseph D. Baker, Malden; William Converse, M. D.

Central Association — Rev. John A. Montgomery, Dwight.

Central East Association — Rev. Israel Brundage, Paxton.

Central West Association — Rev. William G. Pierce, Elmwood.

Chicago Association — Rev. William W. Patton, D. D., Chicago; Rev. Flavel Bascom, D. D., Hinsdale.

Elgin Association — Rev. George S. F. Savage, D. D., Chicago; Prof. William Coffin, Batavia.

Fox River Union — Rev. Julian M. Sturtevant, jr., Ottawa.

Quincy Association — Rev. Alexander B. Campbell, Mendon; Charles H. Bull, Quincy.

Rockford Association — Rev. Henry M. Goodwin, Rockford; Rev. Henry M. Daniels, Winnebago.

Rock River Association — Rev. Martin Post, Sterling; Rev. Henry E. Barnes, Moline.

Southern Association — Rev. John K. McLean, Springfield; Rev. Julian M. Sturtevant, D. D., Jacksonville.

Indiana.

General Association — Rev. John B. Fairbank, Fort Wayne; Rev. Nathaniel A. Hyde, Indianapolis; Rev. E. Frank Howe, Terre Haute.

Iowa.

General Association — Hon. John Meyer, Newton.

Central Association — Rev. Daniel Lane, Belle Plaine.

Council Bluff Association — Rev. William M. Brooks, Tabor; Dea. George B. Gaston, Tabor.

Davenport Association — Rev. J. A. Hamilton, Davenport; Edwin H. Pound, Tipton.

Denmark Association — Rev. Joseph W. Pickett, Des Moines; Rev. H. K. Edson, Denmark.

Des Moines River Association — Rev. Harmon Bross, Ottumwa.

Dubuque Association — Rev. Loren W. Brintnall, Winthrop; Rev. George Thacher, D. D., Iowa City; Rev. Moses K. Cross, Waverley.

Garnavillo Association — Rev. Chapman A. Marshall, Cresco; Rev. Ephraim Adams, Decorah.

Grinnell Association — Rev. George F. Magoun, D. D., Grinnell; Hon Josiah B. Grinnell, Grinnell.

North Western Association — Rev. David Wort, Fort Dodge; Robert Wright, Iowa Falls.

KANSAS.

General Association — Rev. Peter McVicar, D. D., Topeka; Rev. Richard Cordley, Lawrence; Rev. James G. Merrill, Topeka; Rev. Joseph C. Plumb, Fort Scott; Rev. James D. Liggett, Leavenworth; Dea. William Crosby, Grasshopper Falls; Charles B. Lines, Waubaunsee.

KENTUCKY.

Association of Christian Ministers and Churches — Rev. Edward H. Fairchild, Berea.

LOUISIANA.

South Western Conference — Rev. C. H. Thompson, D. D., New Orleans; Rev. Joseph W. Healey, D. D., New Orleans.

MAINE.

Cumberland Conference — Samuel P. Benson, Brunswick.

Franklin Conference — Rev. George N. Marden, Farmington.

Kennebec Conference — Simeon Page, Hallowell.

Oxford Conference — Rev. David Garland, Bethel.

Piscataquis Conference — Rev. John H. Gurney, Foxcroft.

Somerset Conference — Rev. Benjamin Tappan, Norridgewock.

Washington Conference — Rev. Charles Whittier, Dennysville.

York Conference — Rev. Albert Cole, Cornish; Rev. Sylvanus Hayward, South Berwick; Joseph Titcomb, Kennebunk.

MASSACHUSETTS.

General Association — Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, D. D., New Bedford; Rev. Edwin B. Webb, D. D., Boston; Rev. Edward S. Atwood, Salem; Rev. Mason Noble, jr., Sheffield; Rev. Joshua W.

Wellman, D. D., Newton; Hon. Alpheus Hardy, Boston; Samuel M. Lane, Southbridge; Dea. J. Russell Bradford, Boston.

Andover Conference — Rev. Caleb E. Fisher, Lawrence; Dea. Peter Smith, Andover.

Barnstable Conference — Dea. Jonathan Higgins, Orleans.

Berkshire South Conference — Rev. Nahum Gale, D. D., Lee; Alexander Hyde, Lee.

Brookfield Conference—Rev. John Dodge, New Braintree; Hon. William Hyde, Ware.

Essex North Conference — Rev. Raymond H. Seeley, D D., Haverhill; Rev. Daniel T. Fiske, D. D., Newburyport.

Essex South Conference — Rev. N. C. Robbins, Salem.

Franklin Conference — Rev. David Peck, Sunderland; Rev. Samuel H. Lee, Greenfield; R. H. Leavitt, East Charlemont.

Hampden Conference — Rev. Joshua T. Tucker, Chicopee Falls; Rev. Ralph Perry, Agawam; Charles A. Jessup, Westfield.

Hampshire Conference — Hon. E. H. Sawyer, East-hampton; Rev. James P. Kimball, Haydenville.

Hampshire East Conference — Rev. Edward P. Blodgett, Greenwich; Rufus D. Woods, Enfield.

Mendon Conference — Rev. H. R. Timlow, Walpole.

Middlesex South Conference — Rev. Henry J. Richardson, Lincoln; Dea. John A. Fitch, Hopkinton.

Middlesex Union Conference — Rev. Horace Parker, Pepperell; Jacob Haskell, Fitchburg.

Norfolk Conference — Rev. Charles W. Wood, Campello.

Pilgrim Conference — Rev. George A. Tewksbury, Plymouth.

Suffolk North Conference — Rev. Daniel R. Cady, D. D., Arlington.

Suffolk South Conference — Rev. Edmund K. Alden, D. D., Boston; Dea. Ezra Farnsworth, Boston.

Taunton and Vicinity Conference — Zebulon Pratt, North Middleboro'; Hon. S. Angier Chace, Fall River.

Woburn Conference — Rev. Stephen R. Dennen, Woburn; Eleazer Boynton, Jr., Medford.

Worcester Central Conference — Rev. Andrew Bigelow, D. D., Boylston.

Worcester North Conference — Rev. Lewis Sabin, D. D., Templeton; Rev. Davis Foster, North Winchendon.

Worcester South Conference — Rev. Thomas C. Biscoe, Uxbridge.

Michigan.

General Conference — Rev. Philo R. Hurd, D. D., Pontiac; Dea. Orlando Stevens, Clinton.

Eastern Association — Hon. C. J. Walker, Detroit; Rev. William P. Russell, Memphis; Rev. William Platt, Saline.

Genesee Conference — Rev. George M. Tuthill, Kalamazoo; G. H. Holman, Flint.

Grand River Association — Rev. Guy C. Strong, South Boston.

Grand Traverse Conference — Rev. George Thompson, Leeland.

Jackson Conference — Rev. Jesse W. Hough, Jackson; James B. Angell, LL. D., Ann Arbor.

Kalamazoo Association — Rev. Warren F. Day, Galesburg; Dea. L. Foster, Otsego.

Marshall Conference — Rev. Orange V. Spoor, Vermontville; Dea. Samuel F. Drury, Olivet.

Southern Michigan Conference — Rev. Elisha M. Lewis, Church's Corners; Rev. William E. Caldwell, Somerset.

Western Conference — Rev. Leroy Warren, Pentwater.

Minnesota.

General Conference — Rev. James W. Strong, D. D., Northfield.

Anoka Conference — Rev. Abel K. Packard, Anoka; William Cheney, Minneapolis.

Owatonna Conference — Rev. Edward Brown, Medford; Rev. George B. Nutting, Oberlin.

St. Croix Valley Convention — Rev. Edwin J. Hart, Cottage Grove.

Winona Conference — Rev. Americus Fuller, Rochester.

Unassociated — Nine Congregational Churches, — Rev. Richard Hall, St. Paul.

Missouri.

General Association — Rev. Edwin B. Turner, Hannibal; Rev. Truman M. Post, D.D., St. Louis.

Hannibal Association — Rev. Minot J. Savage, Hannibal; J. T. K. Hayward, Hannibal.

Kidder Association — Rev. George G. Perkins, Hamilton.

St. Louis Association — Rev. Charles Peabody, St. Louis

Springfield Association — Rev. James H. Harwood, North Springfield.

Nebraska.

North Platte Association — Rev. Isaac E. Heaton, Fremont.

South Platte Association — Rev. Roswell Foster, Nebraska City.

New Hampshire.

General Association — Rev. Josiah G. Davis, D.D., Amherst.

Cheshire Conference — Rev. Elijah Harmon, Winchester; Rev. Joseph A. Leach, Keene.

Coos and Essex Conference — Rev. Charles E. Milliken, Littleton.

Grafton Conference — Rev. Charles A. Downs, Lebanon.

Hillsboro' Conference — Rev. Frederick Alvord, Nashua; Rev. Daniel E. Adams, Wilton.

Rockingham Conference — Rev. Isaac C. White, Newmarket; Rev. Josiah Stearns, Epping.

Strafford Conference — Rev. Harvey M. Stone, Rochester.

Sullivan Conference — Rev. Charles R. W. Scott, Newport.

New Jersey.

General Association — Rev. William B. Brown, Newark; Deacon Samuel Holmes, Montclair; Rev. Edward Hawes, Philadelphia, Pa.; Gen. Oliver O. Howard, Washington, D. C.

New York.

General Association — Rev. Jeremiah Butler, Fairport; Rev. Stephen S. N. Greeley, Oswego; Rev. George A. Pelton, Candor; Dea. Samuel D. Porter, Rochester.

Albany Association — Rev. William A. McGinley, Gloversville.

Black River Consociation — Rev. Alexander B. Dilley, Rodman.

Central Association — Rev. Augustus F. Beard, Syracuse.

Delaware Association — Rev. Joel J. Hough, Franklin.

New York and Brooklyn Association — Rev. William I. Budington, D. D., Brooklyn; Rev. Ray Palmer, D. D., New York; Rev. Henry M. Storrs, D. D., Brooklyn; Rev. William H. Ward, Brooklyn.

Oneida Association — Lucius P. Clark, Morrisville.

Ontario Conference — Rev. Dwight K. Bartlett, Rochester; Hon. Alfred Holmes, Lockport.

Oswego Association — Rev. L. Smith Hobart, New York.

St. Lawrence Consociation — Rev. George Hardy, Potsdam Junction.

Susquehanna Association — Rev. Edward Taylor, D. D., Binghamton; Rev. Dwight W. Marsh, Oswego.

Welsh Association — Rev. Edward Davies, Waterville.

Western New York Association — Rev. Elliott C. Hall, Kiantone; Rev. Edward Anderson, Jamestown; Hon. A. G. Dow, Randolph.

Wyoming Conference — Rev. Wm. Dewey, Le Roy.

OHIO.

General Conference — Rev. James H. Fairchild, D. D., Oberlin; Rev. A. Hastings Ross, Springfield; Douglas Putnam, Harmar.

Central Conference — Rev. Thomas E. Monroe, Mt. Vernon; Dea. J. S. Boyd, Martinsburg.

Central North Conference — Rev. Samuel B. Sherrill, Bellevue.

Cleveland Conference — Rev. Samuel Wolcott, D. D., Cleveland; Rev. Hiram Mead, Oberlin; Dea. S. H. Sheldon, Cleveland.

Erie Conference — Rev. J. E. Marshall, Sandusky.

Grand River Conference — Rev. Amzi D. Barber, Geneva; Hon. Henry Fassett, Ashtabula.

Marietta Conference — Rev. Israel W. Andrews, D. D, Marietta.

Medina Conference — Rev. Stephen D. Peet, Chatham.

Miami Conference — Rev. Eben Halley, Cincinnati.

Plymouth Rock Conference — Rev. E. D. Taylor, Claridon.

Puritan Conference — Rev. Edgar V. H. Danner, Cuyahoga Falls; E. V. Wolcott, Talmadge.

Toledo Conference — Rev. D. Darwin Waugh, Wauseon; H. W. Howland, East Toledo.

Trumbull and Mahoning Conference — Rev. Joseph B. Davison, Hartford.

Welsh Conference — Rev. David Davies, Brookfield.

OREGON.

Association — Rev. George H. Atkinson, D. D., Portland.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Western Pennsylvania Association — Rev. Edmund T. Garrette, Pittsburg; Hon. A. B. Ross, Cambridgeboro.

[See also New Jersey.]

RHODE ISLAND.

Conference — Rev. Constantine Blodgett, D. D, Pawtucket; Rev. James G. Vose, Providence; L. B. Smith, Nayatt.

Tennessee, etc.

Central South Conference — Rev. Ewing O. Tade, Chattanooga; Rev. Henry S. Bennett, Nashville.

Vermont.

General Convention — Rev. Harvey D. Kitchel, D. D, Middlebury: Rev. Clarke E. Ferrin, Hinesburgh; Hon. Julius Converse, Woodstock.

Addison Conference — Dea. E. S. Bottum, New Haven.

Caledonia Conference — Rev. S. Gerard Norcross, McIndoe's Falls.

Chittenden Conference — Rev. Lester H. Elliot, Winooski.

Franklin and Grand Isle Conference — Rev. George F. Wright, Bakersfield.

Orange Conference — Rev. John K. Williams, Bradford.

Orleans Conference — Rev. Azel W. Wild, Greensboro.

Rutland and Bennington Conference — Rev. William T. Herrick, Clarendon; Dea. J. M. Haven, Rutland.

Washington Conference — Rev. James H. Babbitt, Waitsfield.

Windham Conference — Rev. Joseph Chandler, West Brattleboro; Dea. C. F. Thompson, Brattleboro.

Windsor Conference — Rev. Levi H. Cobb, Springfield; Dea. Amasa Woolson, Springfield.

Wisconsin.

General Convention — Rev. Aaron L. Chapin, D. D., Beloit; Rev. William E. Merriman, D. D., Ripon.

Beloit Conference — Rev. Hiram Foote, Brodhead; Rev. Joseph Collie, Delavan; Rev. Lyman Whiting, D. D., Janesville.

La Crosse Convention — Rev. Joseph M. Hayes, West Saline.

Lemonweir Convention — Rev. Warren Cochran, Baraboo.

Madison Convention — Hon. Samuel D. Hastings, Madison; Rev. Charles H. Richards, Madison.

Milwaukee Convention — Rev. Enos J. Montague, Oconomowoc; Rev. Wilder Smith, Milwaukee; Hon. Erastus D. Holton, Milwaukee.

Mineral Point Convention — Rev. Samuel W. Eaton, Lancaster.

Winnebago Convention — Rev. Henry C. Dickinson, Appleton.

Honorary Members.

Preliminary Committee and Delegates from Congregational Benevolent Societies and Theological Seminaries.

Of the Preliminary Committee — Hon. Amos C. Barstow, Providence, R I.

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions — Rev. Nathaniel G. Clark, D. D., Boston, Mass.

American Congregational Association — Rev. Isaac P. Langworthy, Boston, Mass.

American Congregational Union — Rev. Christopher Cushing, D. D., Boston, Mass.

American Home Missionary Society — Rev. David B. Coe, D. D , New York, N. Y.

American Missionary Association — Rev. Michael E. Strieby, D. D., New York, N. Y.

Congregational Publishing Society — Rev. William Barrows, D. D., Boston, Mass.

Society for the Promotion of Collegiate and Theological Education at the West — Rev. Horatio Q. Butterfield, D. D., New York, N. Y.

Chicago Theological Seminary — Rev. Samuel C. Bartlett, D. D., Chicago, Ill.

Hartford Theological Seminary — Rev. William Thompson, D. D., Hartford, Conn.

Oberlin Theological Seminary — Rev. John Morgan, D. D., Oberlin, Ohio.

Delegates from Corresponding Bodies.

Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec — Rev. Francis H. Marling, Toronto, Ontario; Rev. William F. Clarke, Guelph, Ontario.

General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the United States — Rev. J. B. Helwig, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Rules of Order.

It was *Voted*, That, until otherwise ordered, the rules of order for this body, be the rules adopted by the Council at Boston in 1865.

Nominating Committee.

The Preliminary Committee were requested to name seven persons to constitute a committee to nominate all committees whose appointment may not be otherwise provided for; and they named the following, who were appointed: —

Hon. William A. Buckingham, LL.D., of Connecticut; Hon. J. B. Grinnell, of Iowa; Rev. Samuel Wolcott, D.D., of Ohio; Rev. Henry M. Storrs, D. D., of New York; Dea. J. Russell Bradford, of Massachusetts; Hon. Alpheus Hardy, of Massachusetts; Rev. Harvey D. Kitchel, D. D., of Vermont.

Honorary Members.

According to recommendation in the report of the Preliminary Committee, it was

Voted, That the Preliminary Committee, and one delegate from each of the Congregational theological seminaries, and one delegate from each of the Congregational benevolent societies, have all the privileges of members of this body, except that of voting.

Business Committee.

The following were appointed a business committee: —

Rev. Aaron L. Chapin, D. D., of Wisconsin; Hon. Henry P. Haven, of Connecticut; Hon. Alpheus Hardy, of Massachusetts; Rev. James H. Fairchild, D. D., of Ohio; Rev. James W. Strong, D. D., of Minnesota.

Order for Daily Sessions.

The following order for the daily sessions was adopted: —

Devotional services from 8:30 to 9 A. M. Business sessions from 9 A. M. to 12 M., and from 2 P. M. to 5 P. M. The evening session to begin at seven o'clock.

The report of the Preliminary Committee was made the first order for this afternoon.

The doxology was sung, the benediction was pronounced by Rev. Harvey D. Kitchel, D. D., of Vermont, and the Council adjourned.

Wednesday Afternoon, November 15.

The Council met at two o'clock; the 67th Psalm was read; the hymn, "I love thy kingdom, Lord," was sung, and prayer was offered by Rev. Samuel C. Bartlett, D. D., of Illinois.

Report of the Preliminary Committee, and the Proposed Constitution.

The Preliminary Committee made report of its doings, with a draft of constitution appended. The report was accepted; and it was

Voted, That the constitution be considered and acted upon by paragraphs.

A communication from Rock River Association, Illinois, relating to the name to be chosen by this body, was read, and it was

Voted, That the consideration of the name be deferred until the other parts of the constitution have been considered.

The constitution was then taken up, and the first three paragraphs, amended by omitting the name, were adopted.

The fourth paragraph (relating to faith) was amended by inserting the word "infallible" after the word "only," and the word "religious" before the word "faith," and the words "of our Lord" before "1865."

Theological Seminaries.

It was *Voted*, That a committee of five be appointed to report upon the interests of the denomination as related to our theological seminaries.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Flavel Bascom, D. D., of Illinois, and the Council adjourned to meet in the evening in the first church, to hear a sermon from Rev. Leonard Bacon, D. D., of Connecticut.

Wednesday Evening, November 15.

Public Worship.—Sermon.

The Council met at seven o'clock, in the first church.

After an anthem by the musical union, Rev. George Thacher, D.D., of Iowa, read the Scriptures and offered prayer, and the hymn, "I love thy kingdom, Lord," was sung.

Rev. Leonard Bacon, D. D., of Connecticut, preached from Ephesians, i: 22, 23.

The hymn, "Glorious things of thee are spoken," was sung, prayer was offered by Rev. Israel E. Dwinell, D. D., of California; the benediction was pronounced by Rev. Dr. Bacon, and the Council adjourned.

Thursday Morning, November 16.

Devotional Services.

The Council met at 8 : 30 in the second church, and spent half an hour in devotion, led by Rev. Wilder Smith, of Wisconsin.

At nine o'clock the moderator took the chair ; Rev. Joseph E. Roy, D. D., of Illinois, read the Scriptures and offered prayer ; the minutes of Wednesday were corrected and approved.

Orders. — Speeches in Discussions limited.

It was *Ordered*, That, during the day, the consideration of the constitution take precedence of all other business until it is completed ; that, in this and other discussions, each speaker be limited to five minutes ; that this evening be devoted to hearing papers and addresses prepared by request of the Preliminary Committee ; and that afterward these papers and addresses be referred to committees to consider and report any action which may seem to be called for.

Theological Seminaries.

The following were appointed the committee on the interests of the denomination as related to our theological seminaries :

Rev. Harvey D. Kitchel, D. D., of Vermont ; Hon. William A. Buckingham, LL. D., of Connecticut ; Hon. Charles G. Hammond, of Illinois ; Rev. Samuel Wolcott, D. D., of Ohio ; Rev. William E. Merriman, D. D., of Wisconsin.

A letter from Rev. John L. Taylor, D. D., in behalf of the faculty of Andover Theological Seminary, in response to an invitation to send a delegate to this body, was read, expressing a hearty interest in the Council and its objects. Rev. Leonard Bacon, D. D., of Connecticut, a member of the Council, reported himself as also a delegate from the Yale Theological Seminary.

The Roll.

The committee on credentials presented the roll, which was corrected and approved.

Finance Committee.

It was *Voted*, That a finance committee be appointed.

Consideration of the Constitution resumed.

The verse, "I love thy kingdom, Lord," was sung, and the consideration of the constitution was resumed.

The paragraph referring to Faith, with all papers and communications relating to it, was referred to the following committee: —

Rev. Samuel C. Bartlett, D. D., of Illinois; Hon. Elisha Carpenter, of Connecticut; Hon. C. J. Walker, of Michigan; Rev. Israel E. Dwinell, D. D., of California; Rev. Daniel T. Fiske, D. D., of Massachusetts.

The fifth paragraph was adopted.

The sixth paragraph was amended by inserting after the word "Scriptural," the words "and inalienable," and by omitting the name and the words "churches or individuals," and was then adopted.

The Council adjourned.

Thursday Afternoon, November 16.

Consideration of the Constitution resumed.

The Council met at two o'clock, and prayer was offered by Rev. George F. Wright, of Vermont.

The consideration of the constitution was resumed.

The first line of section one, of the Rules, and the next following paragraph, were amended by omitting the name, and by substituting the words "State organizations" for the words "Associations or Conferences," and were adopted.

The paragraph defining representation was amended by substituting for the words "Association or Conference" the word "organization"; and for the words "General Conference," the words "such body"; and for the word "Conferences" the word "organizations"; for the words "General Association or Conference" the words "State organizations"; and in the same line, for the word "Association" the word "body"; and for the word "understood" the word "recommended"; and was adopted.

The paragraph upon representation of General Societies was amended by omitting the name, and was adopted.

Recess. Choir from Fiske University.

A recess of fifteen minutes was taken, in which a choir of colored pupils of Fiske University, Nashville, Tenn., sung several songs. A spontaneous collection of $130.00 was taken, to be applied to their education, and they were addressed by the Moderator.

Consideration of the Constitution resumed.

Business was then resumed, and the committee upon the section

on Faith reported, recommending that in place of all the words following the word "practice," the following words be substituted: "their interpretation thereof being in substantial accordance with the great doctrines of the Christian faith, commonly called evangelical, held in our churches from the early times, and sufficiently set forth in former General Councils." Their report was accepted, and the sections thus amended were adopted.

The several paragraphs relating to "officers," excepting the last, were adopted.

It was *Voted*, That, in view of the recess, the Council adjourn at 5:15.

The last paragraph relating to "officers" was amended by substituting for the word "any" before the word "office" the word "the"; and for the words "except that of Moderator" the words "of Secretary, Registrar or Treasurer," — and was adopted.

The paragraph relating to By-Laws, was adopted.

The section relating to amendments was amended by substituting, for the words "Association or Conference," the words "State organization," and was adopted.

The Council adjourned to meet in the evening in the First Church.

Thursday Evening, November 16.

Papers and Addresses.

The Council met at seven o'clock in the First Church. After an anthem by the Musical Union, prayer was offered by Rev. L. Smith Hobart, of New York.

Rev. William I. Budington, D. D., of New York, read a paper on the Unity of the Church.

Rev. Christopher Cushing, D. D., of Massachusetts, read a paper on the Supply of the Ministry.

A paper was presented from the Central Association of Illinois, in relation to the devising by this Council of some method for bringing together vacant churches and unemployed ministers.

Rev. William W. Patton, D. D., of Illinois, read a paper on Congregational Literature.

Rev. Ray Palmer, D. D., of New York, read a paper on Church Building.

The colored choir, from Fiske University, then sung several

songs, the congregation united in the doxology, the benediction was pronounced by Dr. Budington, and the Council adjourned.

Friday Morning, November 17.

Devotional Services.

The Council met in the Second Church at 8 : 30, and spent half an hour in devotion, led by Rev. Michael E. Strieby, D. D., of New York.

At nine o'clock, the Moderator took the chair, Dea. J. Russell Bradford, of Massachusetts, read the Scriptures, and prayer was offered by the Moderator. The hymn, " All hail the power of Jesus' name," was sung.

The minutes of Thursday were corrected and approved.

The committee on credentials reported additions to the roll, in connection with which, Rev. John G. Fee, of Kentucky, was heard in explanation.

Finance.

The following were appointed a committee on finance: Hon. Amos C. Barstow, of Rhode Island; Deacon Ezra Farnsworth, of Massachusetts; Douglas Putnam, of Ohio.

Committees on Papers and Addresses of Thursday Evening.

Committees on the papers and addresses presented on Thursday evening, were appointed as follows : —

On the Unity of the Church — Rev. Leonard Bacon, D. D., of Connecticut; Rev. Truman M. Post, D. D., of Missouri; Charles B. Lines, of Kansas.

On the Supply of the Ministry and the Paper from the Central Association of Illinois — Rev. Julian M. Sturtevant, D. D., of Illinois; Rev. Edmund K. Alden, D.D., of Massachusetts; J. T. K. Hayward, of Missouri.

On Congregational Literature — Rev. Edwin B. Webb, D. D., of Massachusetts; Rev. Nathaniel A. Hyde, of Indiana; James B. Angell, LL.D., of Michigan.

On Church Building — Rev. Flavel Bascom, D. D., of Illinois; Rev. Edward Hawes, of Pennsylvania; Hon. John Meyer, of Iowa.

Consideration of the Constitution.

The consideration of the name to be inserted in the blanks in

the constitution was taken up, and there was much discussion; in the course of which Rev. Charles G. Finney, of Oberlin, was introduced to the Council, and by request offered prayer.

It was *Resolved*, That a ballot be taken in which three names shall be placed on the ticket in the order of choice; and that, if the first name has the majority, this shall be the name of the body; if not, the two names having the highest number of votes shall then be presented to the body for their choice.

The ballot was taken. No name had a majority of the votes. The name "Council" had the highest number, and the name "Union" the next highest. The vote was then taken on these two names, and the name "Council" was chosen by a large majority; and it was

Resolved, by acclamation, That the choice be declared unanimous.

The doxology was sung, and the Council adjourned.

Friday Afternoon, November 17.

The Council met at two o'clock, and prayer was offered by Rev. William H. Ward, of New York.

THE CONSTITUTION.

The constitution, with the word "Council" inserted in the blanks for the name, was read, and was unanimously adopted as a whole, and the Assistant Registrars were directed to divide it by sections. It is as follows: —

The Congregational churches of the United States, by elders and messengers assembled, do now associate themselves in National Council:

To express and foster their substantial unity in doctrine, polity, and work; and

To consult upon the common interests of all the churches, their duties in the work of evangelization, the united development of their resources, and their relations to all parts of the kingdom of Christ.

They agree in belief that the Holy Scriptures are the sufficient and only infallible rule of religious faith and practice; their interpretation thereof being in substantial accordance with the great

doctrines of the Christian faith, commonly called evangelical, held in our churches from the early times, and sufficiently set forth by former General Councils.

They agree in belief that the right of government resides in local churches, or congregations of believers, who are responsible directly to the Lord Jesus Christ, the One Head of the church universal and of all particular churches; but that all churches, being in communion one with another as parts of Christ's catholic church, have mutual duties subsisting in the obligations of fellowship.

The churches, therefore, while establishing this National Council for the furtherance of the common interests and work of all the churches, do maintain the Scriptural and inalienable right of each church to self-government and administration; and this National Council shall never exercise legislative or judicial authority, nor consent to act as a council of reference.

And for the convenience of orderly consultation, they establish the following Rules: —

I. *Sessions.* — The churches will meet in National Council every third year. They shall also be convened in special session whenever any five of the general State organizations shall so request.

II. *Representation.* — The churches shall be represented, at each session, by delegates, either ministers or laymen, appointed in number and manner as follows: —

1. The churches, assembled in their local organizations, appoint one delegate for every ten churches in their respective organizations, and one for a fraction of ten greater than one half, it being understood that wherever the churches of any State are directly united in a general organization, they may, at their option, appoint the delegates in such body, instead of in local organizations, but in the above ratio of churches so united.

2. In addition to the above, the churches united in State organization apppoint by such body one delegate, and one for each ten thousand communicants in their fellowship, and one for a major fraction thereof: —

3. It being recommended that the number of delegates be, in all cases, divided between ministers and laymen, as nearly equally as is practicable.

4. Such Congregational general societies for Christian work, and the faculties of such theological seminaries, as may be recog-

nized by this Council, may be represented by one delegate each, such representatives having the right of discussion only.

III. *Officers.* — 1. At the beginning of every stated or special session, there shall be chosen by ballot, from those present as members, a moderator, and one or more assistant moderators, to preside over its deliberations.

2. At each triennial session, there shall be chosen by ballot a secretary, a registrar and a treasurer, to serve from the close of such session to the close of the next triennial session.

3. The secretary shall receive communications for the Council, conduct correspondence, and collect such facts, and superintend such publications, as may from time to time be ordered.

4. The registrar shall make and preserve the records of the proceedings of the Council; and for his aid, one or more assistants shall be chosen at each session, to serve during such session.

5. The treasurer shall do the work ordinarily belonging to such office.

6. At each triennial session, there shall be chosen a provisional committee, who shall make needful arrangements for the next triennial session, and for any session called during the interval.

7. Committees shall be appointed, and in such manner, as may from time to time be ordered.

8. Any member of a church in fellowship may be chosen to the office of secretary, registrar, or treasurer; and such officers as are not delegates shall have all the privileges of members, except that of voting.

IV. *By-Laws.* — The Council may make and alter By-laws at any triennial session.

V. *Amendments.* — This constitution shall not be altered or amended, except at a triennial session, and by a two-thirds vote, notice thereof having been given at a previous triennial session, or the proposed alteration having been requested by some general State organization of churches, and published with the notification of the session.

Declaration on the Unity of the Church.[1]

The members of the National Council, representing the Congregational churches of the United States, avail themselves of this opportunity to renew their previous declarations of faith in the unity of the church of God.

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[1] Inserted here by direction of the Council.

While affirming the liberty of our churches, as taught in the New Testament, and inherited by us from our fathers, and from martyrs and confessors of foregoing ages, we adhere to this liberty all the more as affording the ground and hope of a more visible unity in time to come. We desire and purpose to coöperate with all the churches of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the expression of the same catholic sentiments solemnly avowed by the Council of 1865, on the Burial Hill at Plymouth, we wish, at this new epoch of our history, to remove, so far as in us lies, all causes of suspicion and alienation, and to promote the growing unity of counsel and of effort among the followers of Christ. To us, as to our brethren, "There is one body and one spirit, even as we are called in one hope of our calling."

As little as did our fathers in their day, do we in ours, make a pretension to be the only churches of Christ. We find ourselves consulting and acting together under the distinctive name of Congregationalists, because, in the present condition of our common Christianity, we have felt ourselves called to ascertain and do our own appropriate part of the work of Christ's church among men.

We especially desire, in prosecuting the common work of evangelizing our own land and the world, to observe the common and sacred law, that in the wide field of the world's evangelization, we do our work in friendly coöperation with all those who love and serve our common Lord.

We believe in "the holy catholic church." It is our prayer and endeavor, that the unity of the church may be more and more apparent, and that the prayer of our Lord for his disciples may be speedily and completely answered, and all be one; that by consequence of this Christian unity in love, the world may believe in Christ as sent of the Father to save the world.

MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL,
AS PERMANENTLY ORGANIZED.

The Council proceeded to organize under the Constitution, and elected officers for the session, by ballot: —

Rev. William I. Budington, D. D., of Brooklyn, New York, was chosen Moderator, and was conducted to the chair by Hon. William A. Buckingham, LL.D., of Connecticut, and Dea. Ezra Farnsworth, of Massachusetts. On taking the chair, the Moderator addressed the Council.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Aaron L. Chapin, D. D., of Wisconsin.

Thanks were voted to the temporary Moderator, Hon. E. D. Holton, to which he responded.

Gen. Oliver O. Howard, of the District of Columbia, and Rev. George H. Atkinson, D. D., of Oregon, were chosen Assistant Moderators.

Voted, That the present Scribes be Assistant Registrars, and that the committees already appointed, be continued.

Officers for the term of three years.

The Council elected, by ballot, officers for the term of three years, viz.: —

Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, D. D., of New Bedford, Mass., Secretary;
Rev. William H. Moore, of Berlin, Connecticut, Registrar; and
Hon. Charles G. Hammond, of Chicago, Illinois, Treasurer.

Committee on By-Laws and Rules of Order.

The Preliminary Committee were appointed a committee on By-laws and rules of order, namely: —

Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, D. D., of Massachusetts; Rev. William E. Merriman, D. D., of Wisconsin; Rev. Samuel C. Bartlett, D. D., of Illinois; Dea. Samuel Holmes, of New Jersey; Gen. Oliver O. Howard, of District of Columbia; Rev. William I. Budington, D. D., of New York; Hon. Amos C. Barstow, of Rhode Island.

Dea. Samuel Holmes, of New Jersey, was, at his request, excused from serving as Assistant Registrar.

Provisional Committee.

The nominating committee were directed to present names for the Provisional Committee. They reported the following, who were appointed: —

Rev. Henry M. Storrs, D. D., of New York; Hon. E. W. Blatchford, of Illinois; Rev. Israel W. Andrews, D. D., of Ohio; Hon. John B. Page, of Vermont; Dea. Ezra Farnsworth, of Massachusetts; Hon. Samuel Merrill, of Iowa; Rev. Israel E. Dwinell, D. D., of California.

[And, by the subsequent adoption of By-laws, the Secretary, Registrar, and Treasurer, became members of this committee, *ex officiis.*]

Salutations from Corresponding Bodies.

The hymn, "How happy are our ears, that hear the joyful sound," was sung, and prayer was offered by Gen. Oliver O. Howard, of District of Columbia.

Rev. William F. Clarke and Rev. Francis H. Marling presented the salutations of the Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec, and Rev. J. B. Helwig, those of the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the United States; and the Moderator responded.

Order for the Evening.

It was made the order for the evening, that the Council meet in the First Church and hear papers and addresses from Rev. Nathaniel G. Clark, D. D, of Massachusetts, on Foreign Missions; Rev. Joseph E. Roy, D. D., of Illinois, on Home Missions; Rev. William E. Merriman, D.D., of Wisconsin, on Church Extension; Rev. Michael E. Strieby, D. D., of New York, on the work of the American Missionary Association; and Rev. Horatio Q. Butterfield, D. D., of New York, on the work of the Society for Promoting Collegiate and Theological Education at the West; and that afterward these papers and addresses be referred to several special committees.

The Council adjourned.

Friday Evening, November 17.

The Council met at seven o'clock in the first church. After singing by the Musical Union, prayer was offered by Rev. George H. Atkinson, D. D., of Oregon.

It was made the order for nine o'clock Saturday morning, that Rev. Charles G. Finney, of Oberlin, be invited to read a passage of Scripture and address the Council thereon.

Papers and Addresses.

Rev. Nathanial G. Clark, D. D., of Massachusetts, spoke on Foreign Missions.

Rev. Joseph E. Roy, D. D., of Illinois, read a paper on Home Missions.

After singing by the Musical Union, Rev. William E. Merriman, D. D., of Wisconsin, read a paper on Church Extension.

Rev. Michael E. Strieby, D. D., of New York, read a paper on the work of the American Missionary Association.

Resolutions were presented in relation to petitioning Congress for aid in the education of the freedmen.

Rev. Horatio Q. Butterfield, D. D., of New York, spoke on the work of the Society for the Promotion of Collegiate and Theological Education at the West.

The doxology was sung, the benediction was pronounced by Rev. George S. F. Savage, D. D., of Illinois, and the Council adjourned.

Saturday Morning, November 18.

Devotional Services. — Rev. Charles G. Finney addresses the Council, and is requested to Preach.

The Council met at 8.30 in the Second Church, and spent half an hour in devotion, led by Rev. William Thompson, D. D., of Conn.

At nine o'clock the Moderator took the chair and read the closing verses of Matthew and of Luke, and Rev. Charles G. Finney, of Oberlin, remarked upon the passages read, and offered prayer. The Council, by rising, requested Mr. Finney to preach before them a sermon on the subject embraced in his remarks, namely, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The minutes of Friday were corrected and approved. The committee on credentials reported additions to the roll.

Business Committee.

Hon. Henry P. Haven, of Connecticut, and Hon. Alpheus Hardy, of Massachusetts, of the business committee, having leave of absence, Hon. Elisha Carpenter, of Connecticut, and Hon. C. J. Walker, of Michigan, were appointed in their stead.

The Unity of the Church.

The committee on the unity of the church presented a report, in the form of a declaration, which was accepted and adopted, and ordered to be put on record in close proximity to the constitution, as connected with the original action of this Council. The declaration is inserted on p. 31.

Committee on Papers and Addresses of Friday Evening.

Committees on the papers and addresses presented on Friday evening were appointed as follows: —

On Foreign Missions, and Women's Work in Missions — Rev. Josiah G. Davis, D. D., of New Hampshire; Hon. Benjamin Douglas, of Connecticut; Rev. Henry M. Goodwin, of Illinois.

On Home Missions and Church Extension — Rev. Harvey D. Kitchel, D. D., of Vermont; Dea. Samuel F. Drury, of Michigan: Rev. Ephraim Adams, of Iowa; Rev. William H. Ward, of New York; Rev. Edward Brown, of Minnesota.

On the Work of the American Missionary Association, and the Education of the Freedmen — Rev. William B. Brown, of New Jersey; Rev. Edward H. Fairchild, of Kentucky; Samuel P. Benson, of Maine.

On the Work of the Society for the Promotion of Collegiate and Theological Education at the West — Rev. George F. Magoun, D. D., of Iowa; Rev. Davis S. Brainerd, of Connecticut; Douglas Putnam, of Ohio.

Orders for Saturday, and for the Sabbath.

It was *Ordered*, That at eleven o'clock, fifteen minutes be allowed the American Congregational Association for presenting the claims of the Congregational House; that the Council meet at two o'clock P. M., in the First Church, and that we accept the invitation of the Trustees and Faculty of Oberlin College, and adjourn at 3 : 30, to participate in exercises connected with laying the corner-stone of a new building for the theological seminary; also, that this evening be devoted to a general prayer meeting in the First Church with special reference to the spiritual reviving of our churches, as indicated in the remarks of Mr. Finney; also, that on the Sabbath,

In the morning —

Rev. William I. Budington, D. D., of New York, preach in the First Church;

Rev. Harvey D. Kitchel, D. D , of Vermont, preach in the Second Church ; and

Rev. Edmund K. Alden, D. D., of Massachusetts, preach in the Baptist Church.

In the afternoon —

The Council unite with the First Church in observing the Lord's Supper, to be administered by Rev. Charles G. Finney, of Oberlin, assisted by Rev. Edwin B. Webb, D. D., of Massachusetts, and Rev. Israel E. Dwinell, D. D., of California.

In the evening —

Rev. George F. Magoun, D D., of Iowa, preach in the First Church ;

Rev. Henry M. Storrs, D. D., of New York, preach in the Second Church ; and

Rev. Julian M. Sturtevant, D. D., of Illinois, preach in the Baptist Church. Dr. Budington declining, Rev. Truman M. Post, D. D., of Missouri, was appointed to preach in his place.

The New England Church in Chicago.

Rev. Leander T. Chamberlain, pastor of the New England Church in Chicago, was heard for ten minutes in a plea for aid in erecting a sanctuary in place of one destroyed by the recent fire. The appeal was referred to a committee of five, namely, —

Hon. Amos C. Barstow, of Rhode Island ; Rev. Truman M, Post, D. D., of Missouri ; Dea. Ezra Farnsworth, of Massachusetts ; Rev. Henry M. Storrs, D. D., of New York ; Rev. Eben Halley, of Ohio, — with leave to report at two o'clock.

Congregational Literature.

The committee on Congregational literature presented a report with a resolution. The report was accepted and approved, and the resolution was discussed and laid on the table.

The Congregational House.

The order for eleven o'clock was suspended for ten minutes. Rev Isaac P. Langworthy, of Massachusetts, and Dea. Ezra Farnsworth, of Massachusetts, in behalf of the American Congregational Association, presented the claims of the Congregational House ; and it was unanimously, —

Resolved, That the Congregational House, as representing our

principles, and as affording a home for our benevolent societies and our peerless library, should be taken hold of by our churches, and be built as soon as possible.

Committee to prepare Papers.

It was *Voted*, That a committee of three be appointed to prepare for the information of the churches, a paper embodying the results of the deliberations of this body in regard to the several great parts of the Christian work.

It was *Voted*, That a committee of three be appointed to prepare a paper expressive of the great need of seeking the blessing of the Holy Ghost upon the ministers and churches for the success of the gospel in the salvation of souls.

The Council adjourned.

Saturday Afternoon, November 18.

Referring the Constitution to the Churches.

The Council met at two o'clock, in the First Church. A resolution on the subject of referring the Constitution to the churches, was indefinitely postponed.

Aid for the Theological Seminary and Churches at Chicago.

A resolution was introduced respecting aid for the theological seminary and the churches of Chicago, which have suffered by the fire. The discussion of the resolution was suspended.

Rules of Order.

Voted, That the rules of order in force before the adoption of the constitution be adopted as the temporary rules of this body.

The discussion upon aid for Chicago was then resumed, and the resolution was referred to the committee on the appeal for the New England church.

Congregational Publishing Society.

The resolution reported by the committee on Congregational literature was taken up and adopted, and is as follows:

Resolved, That we heartily commend the Congregational Publishing Society as worthy to receive the most liberal pecuniary support from our churches, and as furnishing the religious literature which they need.

The Supply of the Ministry.

The committee on the supply of the ministry, and the paper from the Central Association of Illinois, presented a report with resolutions. The report was accepted, and the resolutions after amendment were by vote adopted; but the vote was afterwards reconsidered in order to give opportunity for further discussion.

Theological Seminaries.

The committee on the interests of the denomination as related to our theological seminaries, reported resolutions which were accepted, discussed and laid on the table.

Three verses were sung of the hymn, "I love thy kingdom, Lord," and prayer was offered by Rev. William Barrows, D. D., of Massachusetts.

Laying Corner Stone of a Building for Oberlin Theological Seminary.

The Council adjourned to participate in the exercises connected with laying the corner-stone of a building for Oberlin Theological Seminary, at which exercises in the church, addresses were made by Rev. James H. Fairchild, D. D., President of the College; Rev. Samuel Wolcott, D. D, of Ohio; Gen. Oliver O. Howard, of District Columbia; Hon. James Monroe, of Ohio; Rev. Horatio Q. Butterfield, D. D., of New York; and the Moderator; and an anthem was sung by the Musical Union.

Saturday Evening, November 18.

The Council met at 7 o'clock, in the First Church, and held a prayer meeting which was conducted by Gen. Oliver O. Howard, of District of Columbia.

Monday, November 20.

The Services of the Sabbath.

On the Sabbath, in the morning —

Rev. Truman M. Post, D. D., of Missouri, preached in the First Church;

Rev. Harvey D. Kitchel, D.D., of Vermont, preached in the Second Church; and

Rev. Edmund K. Alden, D. D., of Massachusetts, preached in the Baptist Church.

In the afternoon, the Council united with the First Church in observing the Lord's Supper, at which Rev. Charles G. Finney, of Oberlin, presided, and was assisted by Rev. Edwin B. Webb, D.D., of Massachusetts, and Rev. Israel E. Dwinell, D. D., of California. As requested by the Council, Mr. Finney preached on the baptism of the Holy Ghost, from Luke 11 : 9–13.

In the evening —

Rev. George F. Magoun, D. D., of Iowa, preached in the First Church ;

Rev. Henry M. Storrs, D. D., of New York, preached in the Second Church ; and

Rev. Julian M. Sturtevant, D. D., of Illinois, preached in the Baptist Church.

Monday Morning, November 20.

Devotional Services.

The Council met in the Second Church at 8.30, and spent half an hour in devotion, led by Rev. Benjamin Tappan, of Maine.

At nine o'clock, the Moderator took the chair ; the Scriptures were read by Rev Edward S. Atwood, of Massachusetts, and prayer was offered by Gen. Oliver O. Howard, of District Columbia.

The minutes of Saturday were corrected and approved. The committee on credentials reported additions to the roll.

Committees to prepare Papers.

The following were appointed the committee to prepare, for the information of the churches, a paper embodying the results of the deliberations of this body in regard to the several great parts of the Christian work, namely : —

Rev. William I. Budington, D. D., of New York ; Rev. Aaron L. Chapin, D. D., of Wisconsin ; Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, D. D., of Massachusetts.

The following were appointed the committee to prepare a paper expressive of the great need of seeking the blessing of the Holy Ghost upon the ministers and churches for the success of the work of the gospel in the salvation of souls, namely : —

Rev. Edmund K. Alden, D. D., of Massachusetts ; Rev. Truman

M. Post, D. D., of Missouri; Gen. Oliver O. Howard, of District of Columbia.

Finance — Auditor — Edition of the Minutes — Publishing Committee.

The committee on Finance presented a report which was accepted, and it was

Voted, That 5,000 copies of the Minutes of the Council be printed for the use of the Council and for distribution among the churches.

Dea. Samuel Holmes, of New Jersey, was appointed Auditor.

The Secretary, Registrar and Auditor were appointed a committee to publish, at their discretion, the minutes and papers of this Council.

A Manual of Doctrine and Polity.

The following preamble and resolutions were adopted: —

Whereas There has come up, from all quarters, earnest calls for some brief manual of doctrine and polity for use in the families and Sunday schools of our churches, and it is understood that such a manual is in course of preparation by the Congregational Publishing Society; therefore,

Resolved, That the Council recommend the completion of the proposed manual as speedily as is practicable.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to whom the work may be submitted for approval, — whose sanction may give currency to the manual, not as a book of binding authority, but as a means of general instruction commended to the churches for its real merits.

Declaration of Polity.

It was *Resolved*, That the committee appointed by the Council of 1865, on a declaration of church polity, be urged to complete their work as speedily as possible.

Correspondence with other Bodies.

It was *Resolved*, That it is desirable that correspondence by the interchange of delegates be maintained between this Council and the general Congregational bodies of foreign lands, and the general ecclesiastical organizations of other evangelical churches in our own land. Also, that in view of the union of our several State organizations in this National Council, it is expedient that

the practice of formally interchanging delegates between these bodies be discontinued.

Day of Prayer for Colleges.

It was *Resolved*, That in accordance with the urgent desire of many of our colleges, and the action already taken by some of our State organizations and by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, this Council recommend that hereafter the last Thursday in January be observed as the uniform day of special prayer for colleges and other institutions of learning.

Orders.

The report of the committee on the work of the American Missionary Association, and the education of the freedmen, was read, accepted and made the order for two o'clock this afternoon. The report of the committee on church building, and a resolution on the consolidation of benevolent societies, were made the next orders; and the report of the committee on Home Missions and Church Extension was made the order for 7 o'clock this evening. The resolutions on Theological Seminaries were made the order for 9.30 on Tuesday morning; and the resolutions on the Supply of the Ministry were made the next order for Tuesday forenoon.

Systematic Support of the Benevolent Societies.

It was *Resolved*, That in view of the pressing and ever-growing demands upon the churches to sustain the great benevolent societies to which we contribute, and to enable these societies to prosecute the work evidently laid upon them by the great Head of the church; it seems very desirable, — and the Council earnestly recommend to the churches, — that systematic and regular contributions be made to them; and to the pastors, that they fail not to present these claims of the societies to their congregations, and instruct them in regard to the same.

The recent Treaty with Great Britain.

It was *Voted*, by acclamation, That a special committee of five be appointed by the Moderator, to present a resolution in reference to the happy adjustment of difficulties between Great Britain and the United States, by the treaty of Washington, and expressive of our hope that international arbitration may in all cases hereafter take the place of war.

A Conference of Faculties of Theological Seminaries.

It was *Resolved*, That in the judgment of this body, it is desirable that those who have the immediate direction of our theological seminaries, should hold a conference with a view of securing greater harmony and efficiency in training probationers for the sacred office; and that they be requested to pay particular attention to the subject of a "special course" of professional study, as recommended by the Council of 1865.

Special Offerings in the Memorial Year — to be reported.

It was *Resolved*, That this Council request the Congregational churches which made special contributions during the memorial year for the payment of debts, the endowment of institutions and the erection and completion of buildings for sacred and educational purposes, including the proposed Congregational House at Boston, — to make report of the same to Rev. Isaac P. Langworthy, of Boston, Secretary of the American Congregational Association, with a view to their publication, whenever it may be expedient.

The Council adjourned at 11.30.

Monday Afternoon, November 20.

The American Missionary Association, and the Education of the Freedmen.

The Council met at two o'clock, and prayer was offered by Rev. George F. Magoun, D. D., of Iowa.

The report of the committee on the work of the American Missionary Association, and the education of the freedmen, was taken up, and the following resolutions, presented with the report, were adopted: —

Resolved (1), That the overthrow of American slavery was signally the work of Almighty God, having been forced upon the nation by a series of marvellous events not less significant of God's purpose and power than those which accomplished the deliverance of ancient Israel from Egyptian bondage.

Resolved (2), That God, by thus emancipating the slaves, has signified his purpose to lead them and their race on to a Christian civilization hitherto denied them, — a purpose made *practicable* by the unprecedented eagerness with which they seek after knowledge, and made *imperative* by the fact of their elevation to all the rights

of citizenship; in the exercise of which, if they are not educated, our free institutions will be endangered, if not overthrown.

Resolved (3), That the overthrow of slavery has not only made the Christian education of the freedmen practicable and necessary, but it has opened the whole South, and its interesting populations, native and foreign, to the introduction of our Congregational principles and polity, from which hitherto, by the oppressions that have prevailed, we have been virtually excluded; and that this opening of Providence should be regarded by us as a call from God to go in and endeavor to possess the land.

Resolved (4), That God, in his providence, having freed the slave and purposed his elevation, has raised up in the American Missionary Association an agency signally adapted to take the foremost place in the accomplishment of this great work. Not only has he prepared this people for instruction, but he has prepared instruction for this people. This Society, by twenty years of labor for the oppressed, has gained the confidence of the freedmen and their friends, and, by its experience and resources, was exactly suited to take up the great work that was thrown suddenly upon the nation: and also, because of its natural and increasingly intimate relations to the Congregational churches, was admirably adapted to act as their organ in this department of Christian work. Recognizing that, under its leadership, and because of it, our churches have been more conspicuous than any others, in carrying education to the freedmen; we therefore recommend to all the Congregational churches of the land that they take annual contributions to aid this Association in carrying forward this great and pressing work; and we express the conviction that not less than $400,000 should be annually contributed by our churches for this purpose.

Resolved (5), That the higher educational institutions at the South under the auspices of this Association, — colleges, universities and theological schools, — of which there are seven, being in great need both of buildings and endowments, are commended to the prayers and sympathies of our churches, and to the special consideration of benevolent men whom the Lord has made stewards of gold and silver that are his.

Resolved (6), That in the prosecution of their work, we recommend to the Society, that the organization and support of churches and schools should be carried forward together; and that, as the

work advances, increasing attention should be given to church organization; and we recommend this because of the evidence becoming continually more apparent, that the old churches gathered in the midst of slavery must to a great extent be superseded by others founded on broader principles, and with a better understanding of Christian doctrine and morality.

Resolved (7), That the missions of this Association among the Indians of the West, and the Chinamen of the Pacific coast, call for the sympathy and support of all our churches, — and this on the grounds both of Christian benevolence and of their peculiar hopefulness.

Resolved (8), That the spirit of caste, and especially at the South, is one of the great hinderances to education and the harmonious organization of society; and we express approbation and encouragement to all judicious efforts to mitigate and eradicate this baneful influence, whether at the North or South, whether in our churches or colleges.

It was also *Resolved*, That the matter of petitioning Congress to go to the full extent of their constitutional power in providing for the education of the colored people of the South be referred to the Provisional Committee.

Church Building. — The American Congregational Union.

The report of the committee on Church Building was accepted and approved, and the following resolutions presented with it were adopted: —

Resolved (1), That as the work of aiding to erect Christian sanctuaries in our home mission fields was inaugurated in the Albany Convention, and was taken up with renewed enthusiasm by the Boston Council, so this first meeting of our triennial Council ought to mark a new epoch of increased efficiency and enlarged usefulness in the history of this enterprise

Resolved (2), That in the judgment of the Council, the American Congregational Union ought to receive and disburse within the coming year $100,000, thus securing the erection of not less than two hundred church edifices where they will be permanent centres of saving influences in our new States and Territories.

Resolved (3), That to accomplish this object, it is hereby earnestly recommended to all the churches which are represented in this Council, to take a collection for this cause with as little

delay as possible, and to give it a permanent place every year on their schedule of stated contributions.

The recent Treaty with Great Britain.

The following were appointed the committee to present a resolution on the recent treaty with Great Britain: —

Hon. William A. Buckingham, LL.D., of Connecticut; Rev. Geo. F. Magoun, D. D., of Iowa; Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, D. D., of Massachusetts; Hon. Elisha Carpenter, of Connecticut; B. C. Cook, of Illinois.

Orders.

It was *Ordered*, That Rev. William Barrows, D. D., of Massachusetts, be allowed ten minutes this evening to present the claims of the Congregational Publishing Society next after the consideration of the report on Home Missions and Church Extension, and that the next order be the report on Foreign Missions and women's work in missions.

Manual of Doctrine and Polity.

The following were appointed the committee to whom may be submitted the proposed manual of doctrine and polity: —

Rev. Henry M. Storrs, D. D., of New York; Rev. Joshua W. Wellman, D. D., of Massachusetts; Rev. Henry Clay Trumbull, of Connecticut; Hon. Alpheus Hardy, of Massachusetts; Prof. William Coffin, of Illinois.

Two verses of the hymn, "Go preach my gospel, saith the Lord," were then sung.

The Consolidation of the Benevolent Societies.

The following action was taken concerning the consolidation of benevolent societies: —

In view of the number of existing organizations for benevolence that claim contributions from our churches, some of which organizations are so closely affiliated in purpose and method that they contemplate essentially the same work; therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of seven be appointed to consider and report at the next session of this Council whether any consolidation of such organizations is practicable, — with a view to the promotion of great unity and efficiency of operation, and the reduction of expenses that are felt to be needless and therefore burdensome.

It was also *Resolved*, That this committee be requested, when desired to do so, to investigate the merits of such special objects and institutions as are to be generally presented to the churches for aid, and give the churches the advantage of their judgment on their merits and importance.

Indian Affairs in Oregon.

The following action was taken on Indian affairs: —

Whereas The forty-first Congress, third session, ordered the printing of executive document No 37, containing information in relation to the early labors of the Missionaries of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in Oregon, commencing in 1836; and whereas only a few hundred copies of said document were printed, although many thousand copies of executive document No. 38, of the thirty-fifth Congress, adverse to said missions and flagrantly unjust to the memories of our faithful countrymen who were massacred, were printed and widely scattered; therefore,

Resolved (1), That this National Council of Congregational Churches assembled at Oberlin, Ohio, Nov. 15, 1871, uniting with other religious bodies, do earnestly petition Congress to issue a second and much larger edition of said document No. 37, of the forty-first Congress, third session, in order that the friends of missions and the public generally may have the facts before them relating to the great service which Dr. Whitman and his compeers rendered to our country in saving our northwest coast from the grasp of a foreign power, and in providentially preserving its vast area, with all its wealth and resources, for the benefit of our whole nation.

Resolved (2), That in presenting this petition to Congress, we wish not only to do justice to the memory of the martyred dead, and to do honor to living Christian patriots, but also to show how God blesses our nation incidentally through its Christian missions.

The Provisional Committee were instructed to lay the foregoing action before Congress at their discretion, in connection with the matter of the education of the freedmen.

By-Laws and Rules of Order.

The committee on By-laws and rules of order made a report which was accepted, amended, and adopted, as follows: —

By-Laws.

I. In all its official acts and records, this body shall be designated as The National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States.

II. [See later proceedings.]

III. The term "Congregational," as applied to the general benevolent Societies, in connection with representation in this body, is understood in the broad sense of societies whose constituency and control are substantially Congregational.

IV. The Provisional Committee shall consist of seven persons by appointment, with the addition of the Secretary, Registrar, and Treasurer, *ex officiis*. This committee shall specify the place, and the precise time, at which sessions shall commence; shall choose a preacher of the opening sermon; may select topics regarding the Christian work of the churches, and persons to propose and present papers thereon; shall do any work which shall have been referred to them by the Council; and shall make a full report of all their doings, — the consideration of which shall be first in order of business after organization.

V. The sessions shall ordinarily be held in the latter part of October, or the early part of November.

VI. The call for any session shall be signed by the chairman of the Provisional Committee and the Secretary of the Council, and it shall contain a list of topics proposed by the committee; and the Secretary shall seasonably furnish blank credentials, and other needful papers, to the scribes of the several local organizations of churches.

VII. Soon after the opening of a stated or special session, the following committees shall be appointed: —

1. A committee on Credentials, who shall prepare a roll of members.

2. A committee of Nominations, to nominate all committees not otherwise provided for.

3. A Business Committee, to propose a docket for the use of the members. Except by special vote of the Council, no business shall be introduced which has not thus passed through the hands of this committee.

Committees shall be composed of three persons each, except otherwise ordered.

VIII. In the sessions of the National Council, half an hour

shall every morning be given to devotional services, and the daily sessions shall be opened with prayer, and closed with prayer or singing. One evening at least shall be entirely set apart for a meeting of prayer and conference; and every evening shall ordinarily be given to meetings of a specifically religious rather than business character. And the Council will join in the sacrament of the Lord's supper at some convenient season.

IX. An Auditor of Accounts shall be appointed at every session.

X. The Provisional Committee may fill any vacancies occurring in any committee or office in the intervals of sessions, — the person so appointed to serve until the next session.

XI. The Council approves of an annual compilation of the statistics of the churches, and of a list of such ministers as are reported by the several State organizations. And the Secretary is directed to present at each triennial session comprehensive and comparative summaries for the three years preceding.

XII. The Council will welcome correspondence by interchange of delegates, with the general Congregational bodies of other lands, and with the general ecclesiastical organizations of other churches of evangelical faith in our land. Delegates will be appointed by the Council in the years of its session, and by the Provisional Committee in the intervening years.

Rules of Order.

The rules of order shall be those found in common parliamentary use, not modified by local legislative practice, with the following explicit modifications: —

When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received except the following, namely; to amend, to commit, to postpone to a time certain, to postpone indefinitely, to lay on the table, and to adjourn, — which shall have precedence in the reverse order of this list, — the motions to lay on the table and to adjourn, alone, being not debatable.

No member shall speak more than twice to the merits of any question in debate, except by special permission of the body; nor more than once until every member desiring to speak shall have spoken.

Christian Colleges; The Society for the Promotion of Collegiate and Theological Education at the West.

The committee on the work of the Society for the Promotion of Collegiate and Theological Education at the West, reported the following resolutions, which were adopted: —

Resolved (1), That while the times on which we are thrown demand, for the maintenance of Christian truth and the prosecution of Christian work, instruments no less vigorous and far more varied than in former times; and while all instruments manifestly prove themselves worthless, save as a higher and higher consecration takes possession of them, and the Holy Ghost, present and inworking, employs them; the distinctively Christian college still stands, as it ever has done in this land, in the front of the means God has pointed out and blessed for the production of the choicest and best Christian laborers.

Resolved (2), That the planting of Christian colleges and theological Seminaries in our younger States, commends itself now more strongly than ever before to *all* our churches — especially to such individuals as are wealthy; and that recent instances of liberality in this line of giving inspires us with the hope that the whole work is to receive a new and powerful impulse.

Resolved (3), That it is the duty of the pulpit systematically and thoroughly to instruct the whole people touching the indispensable necessity of Christian education, and the consequent necessity of sustaining these institutions.

Resolved (4), That the Society for the Promotion of Collegiate and Theological Education at the West, by its simple machinery, its comprehensive policy, and its successes, already achieved, is fitted to prosecute this great and increasing work; and we heartily commend it to the confidence and increased liberality of the churches, and to their regular contributions.

The Council adjourned.

Monday Evening, November 20.

The Council met at seven o'clock, and prayer was offered by Rev. Constantine Blodgett, D. D., of Rhode Island.

Home Missions and Church Extension.

The committee on Home Missions and Church Extension, presented the following as their report, which was accepted and adopted, by rising: —

The committee to whom was referred the paper submitted to this Council relating to home missions, and also the paper on church extension, submit the following result of their deliberations.

Your committee have labored earnestly to clear the way of the Council to some decisive action which shall at once be wise and harmonious, and lead forth our now united churches into a new era of energy and liberality in their home missionary work. To this end, they have invited the utmost freedom of representation and criticism, and have sought light from all the sources within their reach. It will be impossible for your committee, under this pressure of conference and inquiry, to do more than to indicate very briefly the convictions to which they have been led. And they offer these several results of their deliberations as, in their judgment, worthy to be made the expression of this Council.

First. We record with profound gratitude our sense of God's great and seasonable mercy in raising up for our times and for our country, the American Home Missionary Society; we rejoice in the honor he has put on this agency in giving it the affectionate favor of our churches, and in blessing it for these fifty years with an evangelizing efficiency which has for its imperishable memorial, State beyond State, from the sea to the river, and from the river to the ends of our earth, planted under its auspices with Christian institutions; and in the name of all our churches, both those which are aided and those which are aiding in this service, we bear grateful testimony to the eminent fidelity and discretion which have so generally characterized its administration.

Secondly. While we rejoice in the abundant fruits of our home missionary work, and admire the liberal blessing that has crowned our labors in this direction, we are humbled by the conviction that we have but found our work, not done it; that we have only touched the skirts of our enterprise in its breadth and vital relations; and that it is now imperatively demanded of the whole fraternity of churches united in this Council; by the very growth which God has thus given them, and is ready more abundantly to give; by the expanding field that appeals to us by its destitution; by every claim of Christian patriotism; and by their allegiance to Christ and his redeeming purpose in all the world, — that they awake now to the greatness of our evangelizing work, and give it without delay that full measure of zeal and liberality which shall equal the urgency of the demand.

Thirdly. Instructed by our work itself, as it passes from one stage to another, we discern the necessity of greater flexibility in our method and measures; and we recommend —

1. That a State organization be formed in every State, upon which shall be devolved the development and direction of the work in its own field to the extent of the funds it may raise.

2. That the secretaries avail themselves to the utmost of whatever wisdom to direct can be gathered from those closest to the work.

3. That the policy and practice on which the society have proceeded, of invading unevangelized fields and sending its missionaries into the regions beyond, and among all, of whatever nationality, open to our approach, be largely pursued; and,

4. That the obligation be still more urgently pressed on the aided churches, both in the older States and in the new, to cease from their dependence as early as possible, for the sake of those famishing in utter want.

Fourthly. We recommend that a committee of five be appointed by this Council to confer with the Executive Committee of the Home Missionary Society, and arrange with them a plan on which the State organizations can co-operate in efficient harmony with the parent society, for the common end; and that this committee take action in season for the plan proposed to be in readiness for the several State Associations, Conferences, or Conventions, at their next annual meetings.

Fifthly. For the compassing of the vast evangelizing work now devolved upon us, we urge upon our churches that at once *not less than half a million annually* be devoted to our Home Missionary enterprise.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Julian M. Sturtevant, D. D., of Illinois, and the verse, "I love thy kingdom, Lord," was sung.

The Consolidation of Benevolent Societies.

The following were appointed the committee to report at the next session of the Council, on the consolidation of benevolent societies:

Rev. Edward T. Atwood, of Massachusetts; Rev. William W. Patton, D. D., of Illinois; Rev. Richard B. Thurston, of Connecticut; Rev. Levi H. Cobb, of Vermont; Hon. Henry P. Haven, of Connecticut; Hon. Charles G. Hammond, of Illinois; W. H. Currier, of Michigan.

The New-England Church in Chicago.

The committee on the Appeal for the New-England Church of Chicago, failing to agree, was enlarged by adding the following, appointed by the Moderator: —

Rev. Edward Hawes, of Pennsylvania; Rev. Enos J. Montague, of Wisconsin; W. H. Currier, of Michigan.

Rev. Truman M. Post, D. D., of Missouri, and Hon. Amos C. Barstow, of Rhode Island, of that committee, having leave of absence, the following were appointed in their places:

Gen. Oliver O. Howard, of District of Columbia; Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, D. D., of Massachusetts.

Foreign Missions.

Rev. William Barrows, D. D., of Massachusetts, yielded the time allowed him, to the committee on Foreign Missions and women's work in missions. That committee made a report, which was accepted and approved, and the following resolutions were adopted: —

Resolved, That this National Council earnestly request all our churches who contribute for the evangelization of papal countries, to put their contributions into the hands of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions to be used for this purpose.

Whereas The women of our churches, who, after the revivals of forty years ago, had in operation three hundred and seventeen missionary societies, auxiliary to the American Board, have resumed the same service in the setting up of Women's Boards of Missions, both at the East and the Interior, represented by fifty of their own sex engaged in special labors in behalf of women abroad; and

Whereas, For half a century, they have been engaged in generous efforts to supply the necessities of home missionary families through their benevolent societies, among which is the eminent New Hampshire Female Cent Society, that has raised an aggregate of $77,000; and

Whereas Cultivated women, with great self-denial, have given themselves to personal labor in behalf of the freedmen; therefore,

Resolved, That this National Council gratefully recognizes this re-awakening, among these Christian women, of the missionary spirit, which now finds expression, as the one mind of Christ, in

these efforts for giving the blessings of the gospel to women in foreign lands; for carrying hope and cheer to the homes of the frontier missionaries, and for ministering to the Christian culture of the freed people of the South; and earnestly recommends the organization of similar missionary societies in all our churches, invoking the favor of God upon them and the objects of their beneficence.

Order.

The report of the committee on the recent treaty with Great Britain, was made the third order for Tuesday forenoon.

The Deficiency in the Treasury of the American Home Missionary Society.

The Business Committee were directed to prepare a resolution on the deficiency in the treasury of the American Home Missionary Society.

The Council adjourned.

Tuesday Morning, November 21.

Devotional Services.

The Council met in the Second Church at 8.30, and spent half an hour in devotion, led by Rev. George F. Magoun, D. D., of Iowa. At nine o'clock the Moderator took the chair, and Rev. George H. Atkinson, D. D., of Oregon, read the Scriptures and offered prayer. The minutes of Monday were corrected and approved. The committee on Credentials reported additions to the roll.

Conference with the American Home Missionary Society.

The following were appointed the committee to confer with the Executive Committee of the American Home Missionary Society: —

Rev. Harvey D. Kitchel, D. D., of Vermont; Hon. Benjamin Douglas, of Connecticut; Rev. Hiram Mead, of Ohio; Rev. James W. Strong, D. D., of Minnesota; Henry White, of Connecticut.

The Congregational Publishing Society.

Rev. William Barrows, D. D., of Massachusetts, was heard ten minutes in behalf of the Congregational Publishing Society.

By-Laws.

The committee on By-laws and rules of order were directed to report a By-law defining the term of service of delegates to the Council.

Theological Seminaries.

The report of the committee on the interests of the denomination as related to our theological seminaries, was taken up, discussed, and, with sundry resolutions, recommitted.

The Churches and Theological Seminaries in Chicago.

The committee in regard to aid for the New-England Church and other churches of the theological seminary in Chicago, presented a report with a resolution. The report was accepted and approved and the resolution was adopted, and is as follows: —

Resolved, That the New England church and the other Congregational churches, and the theological seminary, in Chicago, which have suffered by the recent fire, are alike and together commended to all our brethren, and to the benevolent everywhere, for their sympathy and aid; and that, when gifts are made, the specific object to which they shall be applied, — church or seminary, — be designated by the donors.

The recent Treaty with Great Britain.

The committee on the recent treaty between Great Britain and the United States made a report which was accepted, amended and adopted, and is as follows: —

This Council of the Congregational churches of the United States, at its first triennial session, desires to express and record its profound satisfaction that the difficulties between this nation and Great Britain, arising from the conduct of citizens and the government of Great Britain during the rebellion in this country, have been at length referred to an international arbitration in place of the fearful arbitrament of war, — a reference which warrants the hope that this happy mode of adjustment and reparation may be always adopted hereafter in all cases of variance between us, on which side soever the wrong may be. We record, also, our desire that steps may be early taken by the Congress of the United States, at its session now at hand, to secure among all nominally Christian and civilized nations the establishment of a system of international arbitration.

It was *Voted*, That the moderator and the secretary of this Council be requested to send a certified copy of this Minute to any Christian bodies in other lands with which we may come into correspondence; and that the Hon. William A. Buckingham, chairman of this committee, be requested to present it to the Senate of the United States.

Theological Seminaries.

The committee on the interests of the denomination, as related to our theological seminaries, reported resolutions which, after amendment, were adopted, as follows: —

Resolved, That this Council recognize the theological seminaries at Bangor, Andover, Hartford, New Haven, Oberlin, Chicago and Oakland, as proper constituencies of this body as defined in the constitution, and entitled to the confidence and sympathy, and, according to their respective needs, to the benefactions of our churches.

Resolved, That we recognize the present claims of our theological seminaries to the beneficent sympathy of our churches; and, without prejudice to the claims of other institutions, that we earnestly trust that a further endowment of $100,000 each may, as soon as possible, be secured for the Oberlin, Chicago and Pacific seminaries.

It was also *Resolved*, That our young and growing theological institutions at the South, in connection with Howard, Atlanta and Straight Universities, are doing a work essential to develop and strengthen the growth of a pure and free Christianity in that portion of our country, and that we commend their growing wants to the attention and sympathy of our churches.

The following resolutions were adopted: —

Resolved, That this Council are impressed with the importance of the theological department of Oberlin College in its relation to the broad region between the great West and the great East, and that we recommend to the Congregational churches of Ohio, and of the nation, and to men of wealth and benevolence, a generous consideration of its claims upon their benefaction.

Resolved, That the raising of the sum of $50,000 under the auspices of the trustees and faculty for the erection of the theological building, the corner-stone of which has been laid in our presence, would be a worthy tribute to the Christian objects which we

have assembled to promote; and that for such benefactions, and in commemoration of the founding in this place, on the principle of fellowship, of a permanent organization of our churches, a symbol of their unity, the new edifice may be appropriately named Memorial Hall.

Delegates to Corresponding Bodies.

The Nominating Committee reported a list of delegates to corresponding bodies, which was recommitted.

The Council adjourned.

Thursday Afternoon, November 21.

Finance and the Minutes.

The Council met at two o'clock, and prayer was offered by Rev. Flavel Bascom, D. D., of Illinois.

The minutes of the morning were approved.

Rev. William Barrows, D. D., of Massachusetts, Secretary of the Congregational Publishing Society, having offered in behalf of that society, to print and distribute the Minutes of this Council without expense to the Council, it was

Voted, That the offer be accepted, and that the minutes be so printed under the direction of the secretary, registrar and auditor of the council; and that all former action made unnecessary by this vote be rescinded, and that the record be conformed to this vote.

It was *Voted*, That a collection be taken in this body to raise the sum of three hundred dollars to defray the expenses of the Council.

And the collection was taken.

The Deficiency in the Treasury of the American Home Missionary Society.

The Business Committee reported the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That we learn with regret the financial embarrassment of the American Home Missionary Society, occasioned not by the diminution of its receipts, but by the enlargement of its work; and we earnestly exhort the churches to make such prompt and liberal gifts to its treasury as will enable it not only to supply the wants of its missionaries, but to extend the scale of its operations, as the providence of God demands.

Vote excluding Titles Rescinded.

It was *Ordered*, That the vote instructing the scribes to omit from the roll of this Council all academical and other titles belonging to the members, be rescinded.

By-Laws.

The committee on By-laws and rules of order reported the following by-law which was adopted: —

II. It shall be understood that the term for which delegates to the Council are appointed expires with each session, triennial or special, to which they are chosen.

The Christian Sabbath.

The following minute was adopted: —

Impressed with the intimate connection between the proper observance of the Christian Sabbath and the maintenance of sound morals and piety in our land, the National Council do hereby express their sense of the need of renewed efforts to guard the day against the frequent encroachments of secular labor and pleasure-seeking recreations. Amidst the multiplied activities and enlarging enterprises which engross the minds and consume the strength of our citizens, the rest of the Sabbath is indispensable to the continuance of health, virtue, and Christian principle in this nation. To this end, the Council recommend that the claims of the Lord's day as a season of rest from earthly toil to be hallowed by religious culture and worship, be presented and urged by the press and the pulpit; and that Christian laymen endeavor by personal persuasion and example to sanction and enforce this sentiment.

Indian Policy of the Government Commended.

It was *Resolved*, That we rejoice that the government has found it proper to call into its coöperation the aid of Christian bodies in nominating agents for its Indian work; and that we earnestly approve of every governmental agency tending to pacify, educate and civilize the Indian people.

Action on Caste.

The following was adopted: —

Whereas, In the wonderful progress of providential events within the last ten years, the colored population of this country have been advanced to full participation in political rights; and

Whereas We are all interested in the highest educational and religious development of this class of our population; therefore,

Resolved, That it is the duty, and should be the privilege, of our own churches, as well as of other churches, *especially in the North*, so far as their influence extends, to throw open the doors of our churches, schools and colleges, to the full participation of these our fellow-citizens, without any discrimination on account of color.

Intemperance.

A memorial from the General Convention of Wisconsin, asking "that the National Council consider the expediency of making formal petition to Congress, so to frame its legislation as to discountenance and diminish, so far as may be possible, the manufacture, importation and use of spirituous liquors," was accepted and referred to the Provisional Committee with power to act in the case at their discretion.

It was *Resolved*, That this Council deeply feel the need of renewed and more vigororous Christian effort to stay the woes of intemperance in this land, and exhort all Congregational minsters and churches to give this a prominent place in all their plans and labors in the work of reform.

The Supply of the Ministry.

The resolutions on the supply of the ministry were discussed and adopted as follows: —

Resolved, (1), That it is the imperative duty of ministers and churches and individual Christians to promote and encourage in every practicable way the education of worthy young men for the Christian ministry.

Resolved (2), That the American Education Society and kindred societies ought to receive the sympathy and generous liberality of the churches, expressed by regular, stated contributions to their funds.

Resolved (3), That while we are, as our fathers were before us, the firm friends and supporters of our noble public-school system, we cannot dispense with a system of academies, colleges and theological seminaries, controlled and instructed by men of devoted and active Christian faith, judiciously planted over all our territory, and furnished with such ample resources as will secure to

them that commanding position among the institutions of learning of our country which academies and colleges, founded and nurtured by men of Congregational faith and order, have occupied from the very beginning of our history as a people.

Resolved (4), That it is incumbent on ministers to inculcate on Christian parents, and especially on Christian mothers, the duty and the precious privilege of consecrating their children from their infancy to the service of the Master; and, if the will of God shall be so indicated, to the ministry and to missionary work in the home and foreign fields.

Resolved (5), That while we recognize the duty of churches to give, and the right of ministers to receive, a support which will free them from all hinderance in their work arising from pecuniary straitness or embarrassment, we ought to seek and expect such a baptism of the Holy Ghost as will make our young men willing and eager to enter the ministry, and to undertake the cultivation of the harvest fields in the Lord's vineyard in face of whatever difficulties, privations and discouragements, — since, without such a gift of the Holy Ghost, success in the great work to which the providence of God is loudly calling us, is impossible.

The Credentials of Ministers.

The following resolutions were adopted: —

Resolved, That all ministers in our denomination ought to be in orderly connection with some ministerial or ecclesiastical organization which shall be able to certify to their regular standing in the ministry.

Resolved, That churches be urged not to employ, as preachers, unsettled ministers without such evidence of their good standing in the ministry.

The American Missionary Association.

Rev. M. E. Strieby, D. D., Secretary, gave the Council information as to the title of property purchased by donations from our churches.

Delegates to Corresponding Bodies.

Delegates to corresponding bodies were appointed as follows:

General Congregational Union of England; General Congregational Union of Scotland, and General Congregational Union of Ireland — Hon. William A. Buckingham, LL. D., of Connecticut;

Rev. Noah Porter, D. D., of Connecticut; Rev. William M. Barbour, D. D., of Maine; Hon. James W. Patterson, of New Hampshire; Hon. Erastus D. Holton, of Wisconsin.

Congregational Union of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick — Rev. Asa D. Smith, D. D., of New Hampshire; Gen. Oliver O. Howard, of D. C.; Rev. Edwin P. Parker, of Connecticut.

Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec — Rev. Henry D. Kitchel, D. D., of Vermont; Hon. Bradford R. Wood, of New York; Rev. Julian M. Sturtevent, jr., of Illinois.

General Assembly of Presbyterian Church — Rev. William I. Budington, D. D., of New York; Rev. Samuel Harris, D. D, of Connecticut.

United Presbyterian Church of North America — Rev. Raymond H. Seeley, D. D., of Massachusetts; Hon. Samuel D. Hastings, of Wisconsin; Rev. J. A. Hamilton, of Iowa.

Reformed Church in America — Rev. Julius H. Seelye, D. D., of Massachusetts; Rev. E. P. Goodwin, D. D., of Illinois; Rev. Alexander McKenzie, of Massachusetts.

United Brethren — Moravian — Rev. John W. Chickering, D. D., of Massachusetts; Rev. Samuel M. Freeland, of Michigan.

General Synod of the Free Evangelical Lutheran Church — Rev. William E. Merriman, D. D., of Wisconsin; Rev. A. Hastings Ross, of Ohio; A. C. Sessions, of

General Assembly of Cumberland Presbyterian Church — Rev. J. Eames Rankin, D. D., of District of Columbia; Rev. Edward Hawes, of Pennsylvania; Prof. John M. Ellis, of Ohio.

General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church — Rev. A. Huntington Clapp, D. D., of New York; Hon. J. B. Grinnell, of Iowa; Rev. George B. Bacon, of New Jersey.

Methodist Church — Rev. George S. F. Savage, D. D., of Illinois; Rev. Joshua T. Tucker, of Massachusetts.

General Convention of the Baptist Churches — Rev. Nahum Gale, D. D., of Massachusetts; Rev. James G. Vose, of Rhode Island; Hon. Julius Converse, of Vermont.

General Conference of the Free Will Baptist Churches — Rev. Constantine Blodgett, D. D., of Rhode Island; Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, D. D., of Massachusetts; Hon. C. J. Walker, of Michigan.

Hawaiian Association, Sandwich Islands — Rev. Edwin B. Webb, D. D., of Massachusetts; Rev. George H. Atkinson, D. D., of Oregon; Dea. Samuel Holmes, of New Jersey.

Promoting the Objects of the Council.

It was *Resolved*, That it be recommended to the individual members of this Council, to secure at an early day, special meetings of the local bodies which they respectively represent, with a view to do all they can to diffuse the influence of the Council and to bring the churches into the fullest possible sympathy and co-operation with the great objects which the Council seeks to promote; or, in default of such special meetings, that they seek to accomplish the same object at the next ensuing meetings of these bodies.

Resolution of Thanks.

The following resolution was adopted, by rising: —

Resolved, That we return our grateful acknowledgments to the people of Oberlin for their so hearty and courteous Christian hospitalities; to the several railroad companies that have granted us special favors; to the Preliminary Committee, and Committee of Arrangements, for their efficiency in calling and providing for the convenience and labors of the Council; to the Musical Union, for their especial and very gratifying aid in the religious services of the Council; and to the Moderators, who have served the body with so much courtesy and business energy. And now, recognizing the good hand of God in convening this Council and governing its deliberations, we humbly implore him that his blessing may sanctify the results to which we have been led.

Professor John M. Ellis and Professor John Morgan, D. D., of Oberlin, responded to this resolution.

The roll, as a whole, was approved.

The minutes of the afternoon were corrected and approved, and the minutes, as a whole, were approved.

The Moderator addressed the Council; the hymn, "Ye Christian heralds, go proclaim," was sung; prayer was offered by Rev. Nathaniel G. Clark, D. D., of Massachusetts; the doxology, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," was sung; the benediction was pronounced by the Moderator, and the session of the Council was dissolved.

WILLIAM I. BUDINGTON, *Moderator.*

WILLIAM H. MOORE,
GEORGE S. F. SAVAGE, } *Assistant Registrars.*

WILLIAM H. MOORE, *Registrar.*

THE CONSTITUTION.

The Congregational churches of the United States, by elders and messengers assembled, do now associate themselves in National Council:

To express and foster their substantial unity in doctrine, polity, and work; and

To consult upon the common interests of all the churches, their duties in the work of evangelization, the united development of their resources, and their relations to all parts of the kingdom of Christ.

They agree in belief that the Holy Scriptures are the sufficient and only infallible rule of religious faith and practice; their interpretation thereof being in substantial accordance with the great doctrines of the Christian faith, commonly called evangelical, held in our churches from the early times, and sufficiently set forth by former General Councils.

They agree in belief that the right of government resides in local churches, or congregations of believers, who are responsible directly to the Lord Jesus Christ, the One Head of the church universal and of all particular churches; but that all churches, being in communion one with another as parts of Christ's catholic church, have mutual duties subsisting in the obligations of fellowship.

The churches, therefore, while establishing this National Council for the furtherance of the common interests and work of all the churches, do maintain the Scriptural and inalienable right of each church to self-government and administration; and this National Council shall never exercise legislative or judicial authority, nor consent to act as a council of reference.

And for the convenience of orderly consultation, they establish the following Rules: —

I. *Sessions.* — The churches will meet in National Council every third year. They shall also be convened in special session whenever any five of the general State organizations shall so request.

II. *Representation.* — The churches shall be represented at each session, by delegates, either ministers or laymen, appointed in number and manner as follows: —

1. The churches, assembled in their local organizations, appoint one delegate for every ten churches in their respective organizations, and one for a fraction of ten greater than one half, it being understood that wherever the churches of any State are directly united in a general organization, they may, at their option, appoint the delegates in such a body, instead of in local organizations, but in the above ratio of churches so united.

2. In addition to the above, the churches united in State organization appoint by such body one delegate, and one for each ten thousand communicants in their fellowship, and one for a major fraction thereof: —

3. It being recommended that the number of delegates be, in all cases, divided between ministers and laymen, as nearly equally as is practicable.

4. Such Congregational general societies for Christian work, and the faculties of such theological seminaries, as may be recognized by this Council, may be represented by one delegate each, such representatives having the right of discussion only.

III. *Officers.* — 1. At the beginning of every stated or special session, there shall be chosen by ballot, from those present as members, a moderator, and one or more assistant moderators, to preside over its deliberations.

2. At each triennial session, there shall be chosen by ballot a secretary, a registrar and a treasurer, to serve from the close of such session to the close of the next triennial session.

3. The secretary shall receive communications for the Council, conduct correspondence, and collect such facts, and superintend such publications, as may from time to time be ordered.

4. The registrar shall make and preserve the records of the proceedings of the Council; and for his aid, one or more assistants shall be chosen at each session, to serve during such session.

5. The treasurer shall do the work ordinarily belonging to such office.

6. At each triennial session, there shall be chosen a provisional committee, who shall make needful arrangements for the next triennial session, and for any session called during the interval.

7. Committees shall be appointed, and in such manner, as may from time to time be ordered.

8. Any member of a church in fellowship may be chosen to the office of secretary, registrar, or treasurer; and such officers as are not delegates shall have the privileges of members, except that of voting.

IV. *By-Laws.* — The Council may make and alter By-laws of any triennial session.

V. *Amendments.* — This constitution shall not be altered or amended, except at a triennial session, and by a two-thirds vote, notice thereof having been given at a previous triennial session, or the proposed alteration having been requested by some general State organization of churches, and published with the notification of the session.

DECLARATION ON THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH.

The members of the National Council, representing the Congregational churches of the United States, avail themselves of this opportunity to renew their previous declarations of faith in the unity of the church of God.

While affirming the liberty of our churches, as taught in the New Testament, and inherited by us from our fathers, and from martyrs and confessors of foregoing ages, we adhere to this liberty all the more as affording the ground and hope of a more visible unity in time to come We desire and purpose to coöperate with all the churches of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the expression of the same catholic sentiments solemnly avowed by the Council of 1865, on the Burial Hill at Plymouth, we wish, at this new epoch of our history, to remove, so far as in us lies, all causes of suspicion and alienation, and to promote the growing unity of counsel and of the effort among the followers of Christ. To us, as to our brethren, "There is one body and one spirit, even as we are called in one hope of our calling."

As little did our fathers in their day, do we in ours, make a pretension to be the only churches of Christ. We find ourselves consulting and acting together under the distinctive name of Congregationalists, because, in the present condition of our common Christianity, we have felt ourselves called to ascertain and do our own appropriate part of the work of Christ's church among men.

We especially desire, in prosecuting the common work of evangelizing our own land and the world, to observe the common and sacred law, that in the wide field of the world's evangelization, we do our work in friendly coöperation with all those who love and serve our common Lord.

We believe in "the holy catholic church." It is our prayer and endeavor, that the unity of the church may be more and more apparent, and that the prayer of our Lord for his disciples may be speedily and completely answered, and all be one; that by consequence of this Christian unity in love, the world may believe in Christ as sent of the Father to save the world.

BY-LAWS.

I. In all its official acts and records, this body shall be designated as The National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States.

II. It shall be understood that the term for which delegates to the Council are appointed expires with each session, triennial or special, to which they are chosen.

III. The term "Congregational," as applied to the general benevolent Societies, in connection with representation in this body, is understood in the broad sense of societies whose constituency and control are substantially Congregational.

IV. The Provisional Committee shall consist of seven persons by appointment, with the addition of the Secretary, Registrar, and Treasurer, *ex officiis*. This committee shall specify the place, and the precise time, at which sessions shall commence; shall choose a preacher of the opening sermon; may select topics regarding the Christian work of the churches, and persons to propose and present papers thereon; shall do any work which shall have been referred to them by the Council; and shall make a full report of all their doings, — the consideration of which shall be first in order of business after organization.

V. The sessions shall ordinarily be held in the latter part of October, or the early part of November.

VI. The call for any session shall be signed by the chairman of the Provisional Committee and the Secretary of the Council, and

it shall contain a list of topics proposed by the committee; and the Secretary shall seasonably furnish blank credentials, and other needful papers, to the scribes of the several local organizations of churches.

VII. Soon after the opening of a stated or special session, the following committees shall be appointed: —

1. A committee on Credentials, who shall prepare a roll of members.

2. A committee of Nominations, to nominate all committees not otherwise provided for.

3. A Business Committee, to propose a docket for the use of the members. Except by special vote of the Council, no business shall be introduced which has not thus passed through the hands of this committee.

Committees shall be composed of three persons each, except otherwise ordered.

VIII. In the sessions of the National Council, half an hour shall every morning be given to devotional services, and the daily sessions shall be opened with prayer, and closed with prayer or singing. One evening at least shall be entirely set apart for a meeting of prayer and conference; and every evening shall ordinarily be given to meetings of a specifically religious rather than business character. And the Council will join in the sacrament of the Lord's supper at some convenient season.

IX. An Auditor of Accounts shall be appointed at every session.

X. The Provisional Committee may fill any vacancies occurring in any committee or office in the intervals of sessions, — the person so appointed to serve until the next session.

XI. The Council approves of an annual compilation of the statistics of the churches, and of a list of such ministers as are reported by the several State organizations. And the Secretary is directed to present at each triennial session comprehensive and comparative summaries for the three years preceding.

XII. The Council will welcome correspondence by interchange of delegates, with the general Congregational bodies of other lands, and with the general ecclesiastical organizations of other churches of evangelical faith in our land. Delegates will be appointed by the Council in the years of its session, and by the Provisional Committee in the intervening years.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES.

OFFICERS FOR THE SESSION OF 1871.

Of the Council prior to the adoption of the Constitution:

Hon. Erastus D. Holton, of Milwaukee, Wis., *Moderator.*

Dea. Samuel Holmes, of Montclair, N. J., *Scribe.*

Rev. William H. Moore, of Berlin, Conn., and Rev. George S. F. Savage, D. D., of Chicago, Ill., *Assistant Scribes.*

Of the National Council:

Rev. William I. Budington, D. D., of Brooklyn, N. Y., *Moderator.*

Gen. Oliver O. Howard, of Washington, D. C., and Rev. George H. Atkinson, D. D., of Portland, Or., *Assistant Moderators.*

And the Scribes and Assistant Scribes above mentioned were made *Assistant Registrars.*

OFFICERS FOR THE ENSUING THREE YEARS.

Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, D. D., of New Bedford, Mass., *Secretary.*

Rev. William H. Moore, of Berlin, Conn., *Registrar.*

Hon. Charles G. Hammond, of Chicago, Ill., *Treasurer.*

Dea. Samuel Holmes, of Montclair, N. J., *Auditor.*

PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ENSUING THREE YEARS.

Rev. Henry M. Storrs, D. D., of Brooklyn, N. Y. (Chairman).

Hon. Eliphalet W. Blatchford, of Chicago, Ill.

Rev. Israel W. Andrews, D. D., of Marietta, O.

Hon. John B. Page, of Rutland, Vermont.

Dea. Ezra Farnsworth, of Boston, Mass.

Hon. Samuel Merrill, of Des Moines, Iowa.

Rev. Israel E. Dwinell, D. D., of Sacramento, Cal.

And the Secretary, Registrar, and Treasurer, *ex officiis.*

COMMITTEES TO SERVE AFTER THE SESSION.

To publish the minutes:

The Secretary, Registrar, and Auditor.

To propose, for the information of the churches, a paper embodying the results of the deliberations of the Council in regard to the several great parts of the Christian work:

Rev. William I. Budington, D. D., of Brooklyn, N. Y.
Rev. Aaron L. Chapin, D. D., of Wisconsin.
Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, D. D., of Mass.

To propose a paper expressive of the great need of seeking the blessing of the Holy Ghost upon the ministers and churches for the success of the work of the gospel in the salvation of souls:

Rev. Edmund K. Alden, D. D., of South Boston, Mass.
Rev. Truman M. Post, D. D., of Wisconsin.
Gen. Oliver O. Howard, of D. C.

To lay the action of the Council on the late treaty with Great Britain before the Senate of the United States:

Hon. William A. Buckingham, LL. D., of Norwich, Conn.

To confer with the Executive Committee of the American Home Missionary Society:

Rev. Harvey D. Kitchel, D. D., of Middlebury, Vt.
Hon. Benjamin Douglas, of Conn.
Rev. Hiram Mead, of Ohio.
Rev. James W. Strong, D. D., of Minnesota.
Henry White, of Conn.

To whom the proposed Manual of Doctrine and Polity may be submitted for approval:

Rev. Henry M. Storrs, D. D., of Brooklyn, N. Y.
Rev. Joshua W. Wellman, D. D., of Mass.
Rev. Henry Clay Trumbull, of Conn.
Hon. Alpheus Hardy, of Mass.
Prof. William Coffin, of Illinois.

To consider and report at the next session of the Council whether any consolidation of the benevolent societies is practicable. And also, in the mean time, on application, to investigate the merits of such special objects and institutions as are to be generally presented to the churches for aid, and give the churches the advantage of their judgment on their merits and importance:

Rev. Edward S. Atwood, of Salem, Mass.
Rev. William W. Patton, d. d., of Illinois.
Rev. Richard B. Thurston, of Conn.
Rev. Levi H. Cobb, of Vermont.
Hon. Henry P. Haven, of Conn.
Hon. Charles G. Hammond, of Illinois.
W. H. Currier, of Michigan.

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES

REPRESENTED IN THE COUNCIL.

Theological Seminary, Bangor, Me. Rev. Enoch Pond, d. d., President.

Andover Theological Seminary, Andover, Mass. Rev. Edwards A. Park, d. d., Senior Professor.

Theological Department of Yale College, New Haven, Conn. Rev. Noah Porter, d. d., ll.d., President.

Theological Institute of Connecticut, Hartford, Conn. Rev. William Thompson, d. d., Senior Professor.

Theological Department of Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio. Rev. James H. Fairchild, d. d., President.

Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, Ill. Rev. Samuel C. Bartlett, d. d., Senior Professor.

Pacific Theological Seminary, Oakland, Cal. Rev. Joseph A. Benton, d. d., Senior Professor.

SOCIETIES COMMENDED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL.

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, 33 Pemberton Square, Boston. Langdon S. Ward, *Treasurer.* Rev. Selah B. Treat, Rev. N. George Clark, D. D., *Secretaries.*

American Congregational Association, 40 Winter street, Boston, Mass. For information, or remittances for the Congregational House, or gifts to the Congregational Library, address Rev. Isaac P. Langworthy, *Corresponding Secretary*, as above.

American Congregational Union (Church Building), 69 Bible House, New York City, N. A. Calkins, *Treasurer.* Rev. Ray Palmer, D. D., New York, Rev. Christopher Cushing, D. D., 16 Tremont Temple, Boston, *Secretaries.*

American Education Society, 15 Cornhill, Boston. Stephen T. Farwell, *Treasurer.* Rev. Increase N. Tarbox, D. D., *Secretary.*

American Home Missionary Society, Bible House, New York City. William Henry Smith, *Treasurer;* Rev. Milton Badger, D. D., Rev. David B. Coe, D. D., Rev. A. Huntington Clapp, D. D., *Secretaries.*

American Missionary Association, 59 Reade street, New York City. William E. Whiting, *Assistant Treasurer;* Rev. George Whipple, Rev. Michael E. Strieby, D.D., New York, *Corresponding Secretaries;* Rev. E. M. Cravath, *Field Secretary;* Rev. Edward P. Smith, *Secretary for Indian Missions;* Rev. Charles L. Woodworth, 5 Pemberton Square, Boston; Gen. Charles H. Howard, Chicago, Ill.; Rev. Gustavus D. Pike, 59 Reade street, New York, *District Secretaries.*

Congregational Publishing Society, 13 Cornhill, Boston. Moses H. Sargent, *Treasurer;* Rev. Asa Bullard, Rev. William Barrows, D. D., Boston; Rev. G. S. F. Savage, D. D., Chicago, Ill., *Secretaries.*

Western College Society, 62 Bible House, New York City. Rev. Horatio Q. Butterfield, D. D., *Secretary;* Samuel Holmes, Esq, 4 Beekman street, *Treasurer.*

THE STATE ORGANIZATIONS OF CHURCHES,

WITH

NAMES OF OFFICERS, AND DATES OF ANNUAL SESSIONS.

ALABAMA: *See* GEORGIA.

CALIFORNIA, GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF. — Organized October, 1857.

Officers: Rev. James H. Warren, San Francisco, Registrar and Treasurer; Rev. William C. Pond, Statistical Secretary.

Session: Wednesday after the first Sunday in October.

COLORADO CONFERENCE OF CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES. — Organized March 16, 1868.

Officers: Rev. Nathan Thompson, Boulder, Clerk.

Session: First Tuesday in May and November.

CONNECTICUT, GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF (Ministers only). — Organized May 18, 1709.

Officers: Rev. William H. Moore, Berlin, Registrar, Statistical Secretary and Treasurer.

Session: Third Tuesday in June.

———, GENERAL CONFERENCE OF. — Organized November 12, 1867.

Officers: Rev. William H. Moore, Berlin, Registrar and Statistical Secretary; Franklin B. Dexter, New Haven, Annalist of the Churches.

Session: In November, at call of Standing Committee.

DAKOTA, ASSOCIATION OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES OF. — Organized in 1871.

No report further.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: in NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE.

GEORGIA, ALABAMA, AND TENNESSEE: THE CENTRAL SOUTH CONFERENCE. — Organized October 25, 1871.

Officers: Rev. Ewing O. Tade, Chattanooga, Tenn., Moderator; Rev. C. W. Frances, Atlanta, Ga., Recording Secretary; Rev. Henry S. Bennett, Nashville, Tenn., Statistical Secretary; William Morford, Chattanooga, Tenn., Treasurer.

Session: Second Wednesday of October.

ILLINOIS, GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF. — Organized June 21, 1844.

Officers: Rev. Martin K. Whittlesey, Alton, Register and Corresponding Secretary.

Session: Fourth Wednesday in May, at 7½ o'clock, P. M.

INDIANA, GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES AND MINISTERS IN. — Organized March 13, 1858.

Officers: Rev. Nathaniel A. Hyde, Indianapolis, Secretary.

Session: First Thursday of June.

IOWA, GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF. — Organized November 6, 1840.

Officers: Rev. Joshua M. Chamberlain, Grinnell, Register.

Session: First Wednesday after the fourth Wednesday of May, at 7½ o'clock, P. M.

KANSAS, GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF. — Organized August, 1855.

Officers: Rev. George A. Beckwith, Olathe, Stated Clerk and Treasurer; Rev. Richard Cordley, Lawrence, Statistical Clerk.

Session: Second Wednesday of May, at 8 o'clock, P. M.

KENTUCKY, THE STATE ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AND MINISTERS IN. — Organized . .

No report.

LOUISIANA AND MISSISSIPPI: THE SOUTH-WESTERN CONFERENCE. — Organized 26 January, 1870.

Officers: Rev. Jacob A. Norager, New Orleans, Moderator; Rev. Myron W. Reed, New Orleans, Corresponding Secretary; Rev. Stephen W. Rogers, Iberia, Scribe and Statistical Secretary.

Session: Second Thursday of January.

MAINE, GENERAL CONFERENCE OF. — Organized January 10, 1826.

Officers: Nelson Dingley, Jr., Lewiston, Moderator; Rev. David Garland, Bethel, Corresponding Secretary; Dea. Elnathan F. Duren, Bangor, Recording Secretary and Chairman of Committee of Publication.

Session: Fourth Tuesday in June.

MARYLAND: in NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE.

MASSACHUSETTS, GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES OF. — Organized June 29, 1803.

Officers: Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, D. D., New Bedford, Secretary; Rev. James P. Kimball, Haydenville, Registrar; S. T. Farwell, 15 Cornhill, Boston, Treasurer.

Session: Third Tuesday of June, at 4 o'clock, P. M.

MICHIGAN, GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF. — Organized October 11, 1842.

Officers: Rev. Philo R. Hurd, Port Huron, Secretary and Treasurer.

Session: Third Wednesday in May, at 7½ o'clock, P. M.

MINNESOTA, GENERAL CONGREGATIONAL CONFERENCE OF. — Organized October 23, 1856.

Officers: Rev. Americus Fuller, Rochester, Corresponding Secretary; Rev. Henry A. Stimson, Minneapolis, Recording Secretary and Treasurer; Rev. Richard Hall, St. Paul, Statistical Secretary.

Session: Second Thursday of October, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

MISSISSIPPI: *See* LOUISIANA.

MISSOURI, GENERAL CONGREGATIONAL CONFERENCE OF. — Organized October 27, 1865.

Officers: Rev. Edwin B. Turner, Hannibal, Secretary and Treasurer.

Session: Third Wednesday in October.

NEBRASKA, CONGREGATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF. — Organized August 8, 1857.

Officers: Rev. James B. Chase, Jr., Fremont, Stated Clerk and Treasurer.

Session: Second Thursday in June, at 8 o'clock, P. M.

NEW HAMPSHIRE, GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF. — Organized June 8, 1809.

Officers: Rev. Franklin D. Ayer, Concord, Secretary; Rev. Henry S.

Huntington, Warner, Statistical Secretary and Treasurer; Rev. George Dustan, Peterborough, Secretary of Sabbath Schools.

Session: Fourth Tuesday of August.

NEW JERSEY, GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF. — Organized June 2, 1869.

Officers: Rev. George E. Adams, D. D., Orange, Moderator; Rev. Walter E. C. Wright, Philadelphia, Pa., Secretary; Rev. George B. Bacon, Orange, Treasurer.

Session: Last Tuesday of October.

NEW YORK, GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF. — Organized May 21, 1834.

Officers: Rev. Edward Taylor, D. D., Binghamton, Secretary; Rev. L. Smith Hobart, New York, Statistical Secretary.

Session: Third Tuesday of October.

NORTH CAROLINA. — No organization.

OHIO, CONGREGATIONAL CONFERENCE OF. — Organized June 24, 1852.

Officers: Rev. A. Hastings Ross, Springfield, Register, Statistical Secretary and Treasurer.

Session: Second Tuesday of June, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

OREGON, CONGREGATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF. — Organized, 1848. (?)

Officers: Rev. W. R. Butcher, Albany, Registrar.

Session: Third Thursday in June, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

PENNSYLVANIA. — No General Association. Four local Associations. Some churches are connected with General Associations of other States.

RHODE ISLAND CONGREGATIONAL CONFERENCE. — Organized May 3, 1809.

Officers: Rev. Edward O. Bartlett, Providence, Stated Secretary; Alfred Richard, Providence, Treasurer.

Session: Second Tuesday of June.

SOUTH CAROLINA. — No organization.

TENNESSEE: *See* GEORGIA.

TEXAS, CONGREGATIONAL CONFERENCE OF. — Organized December 4, 1871.

Officers: Rev. Aaron Rowe, Corpus Christi, Moderator; Rev. David Peebles, Corpus Christi, Scribe.

Session: First Thursday of October.

VERMONT, GENERAL CONVENTION OF CONGREGATIONAL MINISTERS AND CHURCHES IN. — Organized June 21, 1796.

Officers: Rev. Joseph Chandler, West Brattleboro', Register; Rev. Joseph Torrey, Hardwick, Corresponding Secretary; Rev. William S. Hazen, Northfield, Secretary of Sabbath Schools.

Session: Third Tuesday of June.

VIRGINIA: in NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE.

WASHINGTON TERRITORY. — No organization.

WISCONSIN. — No distinct Congregational organization. The churches are in the PRESBYTERIAN AND CONGREGATIONAL CONVENTION OF WISCONSIN. — Organized October —, 1840.

Officers: Rev. Charles W. Camp, Waukesha, Stated Clerk and Treasurer; Rev. Enos J. Montague, Oconomowoe, Permanent and Statistical Clerk.

Session: Time left to the permanent officers; hitherto in October.

WYOMING. — No organization.

SUMMARIES OF STATISTICS.

[FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL QUARTERLY.]

SUMMARY I. — CHURCHES, MINISTERS AND REPORTED CONTRIBUTIONS IN 1871.

STATES, ETC.	CHURCHES.								MINISTERS.						Benevolent Contributions reported.
	With Pastors.				Vacant.				In pastoral work.				Not in pastoral work.	Total Ministers.	
	Pastors.	Acting Pastors.	Not Specified.	Total.	Sup. by lic., etc.,	Not Supplied.	Total.	Total Churches.	Pastors.	Acting Pastors.	Not Specified.	Total.			
Alabama,	0	3	0	3	0	1	1	4	0	3	0	3	1	4	$107.75
California,	14	29	0	43	0	13	13	56	14	27	0	41	17	58	6,295.43
Colorado,	0	2	0	2	0	4	4	6	0	2	0	2	0	2	37.76
Connecticut,	166	77	0	243	5	44	49	292	167	76	0	243	110	353	262,738 84
Dakota,	1	5	0	6	0	0	0	6	1	1	0	2	0	2	109.45
District Columbia	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	11	12	*505.00
Georgia,	2	2	0	4	0	0	0	4	2	2	0	4	1	5	160.00
Illinois,	39	134	0	173	12	66	78	251	39	119	0	158	91	249	62,956.38
Indiana,	5	11	0	16	1	9	10	26	5	9	0	14	8	22	?
Iowa,	17	146	0	163	4	40	44	207	17	119	0	136	44	180	26,026 77
Kansas,	6	57	0	63	4	11	15	78	6	46	0	52	22	74	4,356.04
Kentucky,	3	2	0	5	0	0	0	5	4	2	0	6	5	11	311.70
Louisiana,	4	11	0	15	0	0	0	15	4	11	0	15	6	21	849.05
Maine,	57	89	0	146	50	43	93	239	55	75	0	130	40	170	34,378.00
Maryland,	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	?
Massachusetts,	292	134	0	426	4	71	75	501	297	134	0	431	179	610	339,829.84
Michigan,	10	116	0	126	10	38	48	174	10	102	0	112	42	154	82,980.04
Minnesota,	11	47	0	58	1	17	18	76	11	33	0	44	9	53	14,936.73
Mississippi,	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	3	2	1	0	3	0	3	51.27
Missouri,	9	44	0	53	3	8	11	64	9	33	0	42	21	63	6,173.08
Nebraska,	1	26	0	27	0	5	5	32	1	18	0	19	10	29	327.50
Nevada,	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	?
New Hampshire,	73	55	0	128	9	49	58	186	74	55	0	129	52	181	42,716.58
New Jersey,	8	7	0	15	0	2	2	17	8	6	0	14	11	25	*13,262.00
New York.	64	112	0	176	34	40	74	250	58	92	0	150	68	218	103,409.00
North Carolina,	1	3	0	4	0	0	0	4	1	2	0	3	0	3	25.00
Ohio,	29	132	0	161	4	34	38	199	29	85	0	114	35	149	64,019.00
Oregon,	1	7	0	8	0	1	1	9	1	7	0	8	5	13	226 45
Pennsylvania,	4	39	0	43	1	35	36	79	4	32	0	36	7	43	?
Rhode Island,	9	11	0	20	0	5	5	25	10	11	0	21	9	30	19,236 00
South Carolina,	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	2	?
Tennessee,	0	5	0	5	0	1	1	6	0	5	0	5	3	8	111.15
Texas,	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	3	1	2	0	3	0	3	20 25
Vermont,	70	83	0	153	5	43	48	201	70	84	0	154	53	207	45,104.50
Virginia,	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	?
Washington Ter.,	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	*100.00
Wisconsin,	30	104	0	134	6	34	40	174	30	84	0	114	45	159	19,387.03
Wyoming,	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	*75.00
TOTALS, U. S.	930	1505	0	2435	153	614	767	3202	931	1287	0	2218	906	3124	$1,150,814.19
Ont. & Que.,	64	6	0	70	0	14	14	84	54	4	0	58	17	75	$15,578.00
New Brunswick,	0	3	0	3	0	2	2	5	0	3	0	3	0	3	
Nova Scotia,	0	7	0	7	0	2	2	9	0	8	0	8		8	
Jamaica,	0	6	0	6	0	0	0	6	0	4	0	4	0	4	567.62
TOTALS, No. Am.	994	1527	0	2591	153	622	185	3306	985	1306	0	2291	923	3214	$1,166,959.81

There are also 101 Foreign Missionaries, besides the four in Jamaica.

"Benevolent Contributions" do not include any parish expenses, endowments of colleges, etc. Those starred (*) are of last year, and are too small, this year's reports being not separated into items.

SUMMARY II. — Membership in 1871, with Additions, Removals, and Baptisms during the preceding Statistical Year.

States.	Church Members.				Additions.			Removals.				Bapt'ms.		In Sab. Schools.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Absent.	Profession.	Letter.	Total.	Deaths.	Dismissals.	Excom.	Total.	Adult.	Infant.	
Ala.,	78	73	151	11	71	8	79	2	3	0	5	53	4	394
Cal.,	861	1.605	2,466	419	143	227	370	21	141	11	173	45	96	5,588
Col.,	64	75	164	22	4	7	45	1	6	0	7	4	13	326
Conn.,	16,799	32,519	49,318	5,194	1,084	1,306	2,390	900	1,369	139	2,399	477	902	49,377
Dak.,	30	44	103	6	12	9	21	0	0	0	0	1	3	205
D. C.,	145	165	310		9	42	51	4	9		13	5	14	1,665
Geo.,	139	149	288	36	78	7	85	5	3	6	14	30	14	635
Ill.,	7,135	12,264	19,577	2,295	1,121	1,265	2,386	193	1,082	90	1,365	498	381	23,707
Ind.,	433	766	1,204	113	75	82	157	16	71	0	87	18	16	1,836
Iowa,	4,363	6.802	11,165	977	799	705	1,504	79	533	64	676	323	265	11,823
Kan.,	1,052	1,426	2,725	274	274	469	743	30	130	14	174	91	65	4,306
Ky.,	160	224	384	53	51	6	57	2	2	1	5	20	1	397
Lou.,	397	769	1,166	103	129	30	159	27	48	6	81	92	141	1,374
Me.,	5,877	13,680	19,557	3,808	486	289	775	334	370	14	718	300	146	22.385
Md.,	52	51	103	13	4	24	28	2	4		6	3	10	217
Mass.,	25,152	55,431	80,583	12.517	2,164	2,508	4,173	1,348	2,949	73	3.470	1,126	1,005	90,851
Mich.,	4.270	7,738	12,008	1,171	684	589	1,273	124	501	82	707	374	236	16,631
Minn.,	1,440	2,117	3.557	450	209	278	487	54	217	11	282	74	91	5,175
Miss.,	59	50	109	5	35	3	38	1	0	2	3	29	4	260
Mo.,	1,131	1,605	2,736	245	221	323	544	35	172	21	228	57	77	4,348
Neb.,	303	417	720	68	49	126	202	6	47	2	55	18	16	1,165
Nev.,	2	13	15		3	12	15					1		15
N. H.,	5,611	12,743	18 354	3,393	663	330	993	363	321	15	699	438	178	22,033
N. J.,	670	1.266	1.936	203	103	172	275	25	48	39	112	29	60	3,480
N. Y.,	9,834	16,673	25,807	2,026	881	799	1,680	314	772	42	1,128	337	386	28,883
N. C.,	37	36	73	3	17	2	19	1	0	0	1	12	0	415
Ohio,	5,854	10,511	16,975	?	1,228	703	1,931	239	741	70	1,050	484	352	19,405
Or.,	192	276	468	?	15	15	30	4	14	12	30	6	9	845
Penn.,	495	790	4,199	87	117	159	276	27	85	9	121	25	105	5,325
R. I.,	1,189	2,950	4,149	682	80	114	194	57	85	5	147	31	72	5,175
S. C.,	64	137	201	15	11	5	16	3	3	1	7	0	25	160
Tenn.,	93	138	278	37	52	9	100	2	3	1	6	48	5	700
Texas,	11	20	50	11	2	4	6	0	2	0	2	1	2	186
Ver.,	6,198	12,314	18,512	3,351	596	375	971	366	360	12	838	394	233	20,940
Va.,	29	30	63	18	8	18	26	0	4	0	4	4	2	247
Wa. T.,			41											65
Wis.,	4,241	8,195	12,519	1,550	792	447	1,239	116	513	42	671	349	341	18,323
Wyo.,			20		1	1	2							75
U. S.,	103,470	204,062	312,054	39,147	13,271	10,969	23,343	4,701	9,799	784	15.284	5,797	5,262	368,937
O. & Q.,	1.542	3,413	5,169	255	275	149	424	67	156	88	311	22	273	6,842
N. B.,	115	190	313	35	12	2	14	7	4	5	16			438
N. S.,	243	363	801	134	91	5	96	10	6	1	17			1,071
Jam.,	78	153	521	2	26	5	31	4	7	6	17			505
N. Am.,	105,448	208,181	318,858	39,571	13.675	11,130	23,908	4,789	9,972	884	15,545	5.819	5,535	377.793

In the above table, note, — 1. The "totals" of church members, additions, and removals, in several States, and so in the footings, exceed the sum of particulars; because the "total" is occasionally given, with no report of the particulars whose addition makes such "totals." The particulars are slightly less, as reported, than they ought to be.

2. The "excommunications" sometimes include, though not with strict accuracy, the number of persons whose names are dropped from church list on account of long absence.

3. In "Sabbath Schools," Iowa reports the "average attendance" only.

4. The churches making no report are included in the Summaries, with past reports of membership (if any are found within three years). But the report of "additions," "removals," and "baptisms" is (as usual) too small by just the number those churches might have reported.

SUMMARY III. — STATISTICAL SUMMARIES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES IN THE UNITED STATES AS PUBLISHED 1858–1872, FOR THE YEARS 1857–1871.

Collected.	Printed in Jan.	CHURCHES.									MINISTERS.							
		With Ministers.				Vacant.					In Pastoral Work.							
		Pastors.	Acting Pastors.	Not Specified.	Total.	Sup. by lic., etc.	Not Supplied.	Total.	Condition not reported.	Total Churches.	Pastors.	Acting Pastors.	Not Specified.	Total.	Not in pastoral work.	Position not reported.	Total Ministers.	Foreign Missionaries.
1857	1858	947	592	229	1,768			503	44	2 315	953	562	216	1,731	592	27	2,350	
1858	1859	894	690	253	1,837			472	60	2.369	907	617	222	1,746	625	38	2,409	
1859	1860	861	594	548	2 003			390	178	2,571	878	523	457	1,858	496	90	2,444	
1860	1861	898	694	454	2.046			537	0	2,583	899	618	375	1,892	649	93	2,634	
1861	1862	923	1,044	130	2,097			458	0	2,555	931	812	206	1,941	628	109	2,678	
1862	1863	890	894	318	2.102			478	0	2,580	904	804	201	1,909	663	116	2.688	
1863	1864	835	725	597	2,157			495	0	2.652	838	602	418	1.858	632	203	2,693	
1864	1865	878	1,026	198	2,102			566	0	2.668	876	875	145	1,896	753	149	2,798	
1865	1866	837	789	433	2.059			605	59	2.773	792	784	310	1,886	875	41	2,802	
1866	1867	852	1.032	221	2,105	66	559	625	50	2,780	862	912	171	1,945	859	19	2,823	
1867	1868	869	1,224	56	2,149	66	592	658	18	2,825	872	1,079	45	1,996	881	0	2,877	
1868	1869	890	1.362	46	2,298	115	538	653	0	2,951	892	1,191	36	2,119	850	0	2.969	103
1869	1870	903	1,365	58	2,326	112	605	717	0	3,043	900	1,184	49	2,133	935	0	3.068	101
1870	1871	903	1,438	0	2.341	129	651	780	0	3.121	901	1,269	0	2,170	928	0	3.098	99
1871	1872	930	1,505	0	2,435	153	614	767	0	3,202	931	1,287	0	2,218	906	0	3,124	105

Collected.	Printed in Jan.	CHURCH MEMBERS.				ADDITIONS THE YEAR PRECEDING.			REMOVALS THE YEAR PRECEDING.				BAPT'S the year preceding		In Sabbath Schools.
		Males.	Females.	Totals.	Absent.	Profession.	Letter.	Total.	Deaths.	Dismissed.	Excom.	Total.	Adult.	Infant.	
1857	1858			224,732		6,913	6,592	13,505	3,110	6,076	465	9,651			195,572
1858	1859			245,369		12,812	7,950	21,582	3,303	6,859	440	10,602			207,815
1859	1860	73,736	142,625	250,452	27,691	25,202	9,569	34,954	3,535	8,067	654	12,343	10,529	5,601	228,984
1860	1861	79,803	156,871	253,765	29,048	7,486	7,335	14,821	3,611	6,965	649	11,225	3,050	4,812	242,823
1861	1862	81,196	158,237	255,634	32,180	5,522	6,629	12,151	3,708	6,280	551	10,539	2,151	4.544	246,178
1862	1863	89,738	161,490	257,191	33,266	6,196	6,433	12,629	3,908	5,376	616	9,900	2,464	4,135	250,890
1863	1864	83,551	164,037	260,284	30,854	7,765	6,243	14,378	4,244	5,457	735	10,456	3,336	4,122	257,934
1864	1865	86,571	171,145	262,649	34,068	9,032	6,777	15,809	4,300	5,739	622	11,261	4,024	4,151	277,398
1865	1866	84,715	171,698	263,206	34,244	11,039	7,393	18,442	4,729	6,578	644	11,961	4,074	4,133	272,684
1866	1867	85,781	174,333	267,453	32,981	11,249	8,593	19,994	4,380	8,366	614	13,360	5,221	4.077	286,275
1867	1868	91,745	184,254	278,362	34,056	18,849	10,771	29,638	4,212	9,356	703	14,271	8,538	4,949	313,430
1868	1869	97,090	193,696	291,042	34,915	16,432	11,814	28,246	4,310	10,479	860	15,648	7,389	4,944	339,205
1869	1870	98,165	196,865	300,362	35,364	15,167	12,078	27,373	4,386	10,761	642	15,801	7,094	5,022	356,502
1870	1871	101,901	200,92.	306,518	36,590	13,501	11,636	25.137	4,440	10,000	636	15,180	6,335	5,134	361,465
1871	1872	103,470	204,062	312,054	39,147	13,271	10,969	23,343	4,701	9,799	784	15.284	5,797	5,262	368,937

In the above table, the fifth column, churches having ministers "not specified," means that it was not stated whether those ministers were pastors or acting pastors; but it is evident that most of them had acting pastors. The tenth column, "condition not reported," doubtless should be considered almost entirely as vacant churches. The seventeenth column, ministers whose position was not reported, *i. e.* whether in pastoral work or not, should doubtless be almost entirely added to the column of those not in pastoral work. For several years past we have succeeded in reducing these columns of unknowns to "0."

It will be seen that in the past ten years the net gain of churches is 647, or .253. Net gain of ministers not including foreign missionaries, 446, or .161. Net gain of church members, 57,020, or .223. Net gain in Sabbath Schools, 122,759, or .494.

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" 14	The Eternal Mediator . . .	Heb. iv. 11-16
" 21	The All-Sufficient Lord . .	2 Cor. xii. 1-10
" 28	The Glorified Son of Man .	Rev. i. 12-20
Feb. 4	To the Church of Ephesus	Rev, ii. 1-7
" 11	To the Churches of Smyrna and Pergamos	Rev. ii. 8-18
" 18	To the Church of Sardis....	Rev. iii. 1-6
" 25	To the Church of Philadelphia.....	Rev. iii. 7-13
Mar. 3	To the Church of Laodicea	Rev. iii. 14-22
" 10	The Sealed Book.....	Rev. v. 1-14
" 17	The Lamb in the midst of the throne	Rev. vii. 9-17
" 24	Alpha and Omega..... *Review.*	Rev. xxii. 10-17
	SECOND QUARTER: ELISHA AND ISRAEL.	
Apr. 7	The Mantle of Elijah.....	2 Kings ii. 9-15
" 14	The Waters Healed.....	2 Kings ii. 19-25
" 21	The Widow's Oil Increased	2 Kings iv. 1 7
" 28	Is it well with the Child? ..	2 Kings iv. 18-26
May 5	The Boy Restored to Life..	2 Kings iv 29-37
" 12	The Little Captive.....	2 Kings v. 1-7
" 10	The Leper Healed	2 Kings v. 8-14
" 26	Gehazi's Sin	2 Kings v. 20-27
June 2	Elisha's Defenders.....	2 Kings vi. 8-18
" 9	God's Deliverance	2 Kings vii. 1-11
" 16	Hezekiah's Prayer	2 Kings xx. 1-11
" 23	Judah Carried Captive..... *Review.*	2 K'gs xxiv. 10-16
	THIRD QUARTER: STUDIES IN THE EPISTLES	
July 7	Peace with God	Rom. v. 1-10
" 14	The Contrast.....	Rom. viii. 6-18
" 21	Faith and Works.....	Rom. x. 4-13
" 28	A Living Sacrifice	Rom. xii. 1-8
Aug. 4	Christian Living	Rom, xii. 9-21
" 11	Love Fulfilling the Law ...	Rom. xiii. 8-14
" 18	Accountability to God.....	Rom. xiv. 7-13
" 25	Help One Another	Rom. xv. 1-7
Sep. 1	The Cross.....	1 Cor. i. 18-25
" 8	Husbandmen and Builders	1 Cor. iii. 6-15
" 15	The Temple of God.....	1 Cor. iii. 16-23
" 22	Charity the Greatest..... *Review.*	1 Cor. xiii. 1-15
	FOURTH QUARTER: DANIEL AND HIS TIMES.	
Oct. 6	The Captives in Babylon ..	Ps. cxxxvii. 1-9
" 13	Daniel's Temperance Soc'ty	Dan. i. 8-17
" 20	The Furious King.....	Dan. ii. 10-19
" 27	The Interpreter	Dan. ii. 27-35
Nov. 3	The Brave Young Men	Dan. iii. 13-18.
" 10	The Young Men in the Fire	Dan. iii. 19-26
" 17	The Outcast King.....	Dan. iv. 26-33
" 24	The Handwriting on the Wall.....	Dan. v. 22-31
Dec. 1	The Conspiracy..... ...	Dan. vi. 4-10
" 8	In the Den of Lions.....	Dan. vi. 14-23
" 15	Prayer and Answer.....	Dan. ix. 16-23
" 22	The Glorious Resurrection. *Review.*	Dan. xii. 1-12

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